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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

India's PM Narendra Modi has been honored with top awards from Guyana and Barbados.

Modi was awarded the Order of Excellence, Guyana's highest national honor, by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali last month. This prestigious accolade, typically reserved for up to 25 living Guyanese citizens, recognizes Modi's global leadership and support for developing nations. During the ceremony, President Ali praised Modi's contributions, including India's donation of 500,000 COVID-19 vaccines to the Caribbean, with 80,000 sent to Guyana, saving thousands of lives.

Modi also received the Honorary Freedom of Barbados, Barbados' highest national honor, acknowledging his leadership and critical vaccine aid during the pandemic. The award was presented on November 30th, Barbados' Independence Day and third anniversary as a Republic.

During his state visit to Guyana, Modi strengthened bilateral ties and participated in cultural celebrations, reaffirming India's commitment to the Caribbean region. His recognition by both nations highlights his enduring impact on global collaboration and solidarity.

Meanwhile, Italian poet Antonella Anedda has been awarded the prestigious Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry for her

book *Historiae*, translated from Italian by Susan Stewart and Patrizio Ceccagnoli. The prize, established in 2014 by the estate of St. Lucian Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, honors a full-length book of poetry by a non-U.S. citizen, published in the prior calendar year in English or English translation.

Anedda, born in Rome in 1955 to a Sardinian family, is the author of nine books and a recipient of Italy's Viareggio Prize. *Historiae* was published by the New York Review of Books and chosen by Diane Mehta as this year's winner. The award, shared between the poet and translators, includes a \$2,000 cash prize.

The Derek Walcott Prize was launched in 2019 and continues to celebrate exceptional global voices in poetry. Submissions for the 2025 award are now open.

Additionally, Zion McNeil has been named the 2023/2024 recipient of the Derek Walcott Theatre Arts Scholarship, awarded annually to a CARICOM student enrolled in the Theatre Arts program at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

HAITI

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports a 70% rise in the recruitment of children into armed groups in Haiti over the past year, reflecting a severe deterioration in child protection amid escalating violence.



PM Narendra Modi, I., receiving the highest award of Guyana from President Dr. Irfaan Ali last month. (Guyana DPI image)

UNICEF estimates that children now make up half of armed group members, driven by poverty, lack of education, and collapsing essential services. In Port-au-Prince alone, 1.2 million children face daily threats of violence, with 25% of the 703,000 internally displaced persons being children living in dire conditions.

Sexual violence has surged, with reports indicating a tenfold increase in child victims this year. UNICEF has provided psychosocial support and services to over 25,000 people affected by gender-based violence in 2024.

The agency is urging immediate child protection measures, including the release of recruited children. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell warned the crisis leaves children with lasting emotional scars, calling for urgent action to

safeguard their future.

JAMAICA

The ruling Jamaica Labour Party, (JLP) recently held its 81st annual conference, where Prime Minister Andrew Holness outlined key initiatives, including cutting the General Consumption Tax (GCT) on electricity from 15% to 7%, debt amnesty for National Water Commission (NWC) customers, and expanding the J\$20,000 reverse income tax credit.

Holness welcomed Accompong Maroons, emphasizing unity despite past disputes over mining and land ownership in the Cockpit Country. He assured the Maroons of government plans to develop their community and leverage heritage assets to boost the local economy. Highlighting achievements,

Holness dismissed opposition criticisms, stating the JLP can campaign on results, not empty promises. He announced plans to streamline bureaucracy, introduce prepaid electricity meters in vulnerable communities, and provide 100 new buses for rural areas. And the PM pledged support for underserved communities, promising targeted initiatives to drive economic growth and improve quality of life.

SURINAME

Suriname President Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi has introduced a financial initiative, "Royalties for Everyone" (RVI), granting every Surinamese national a US\$750 savings note with an annual 7% interest. Payments will come from oil royalties in Block 58 once production begins.

The RVI, listed in US dollars for stability, will be paid in Surinamese dollars, with early payout options for seniors and people with disabilities by 2028. Santokhi emphasized opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs to benefit from energy-sector growth.

Block 58's "GranMorgu" project, led by TotalEnergies, holds 750 million barrels of recoverable oil reserves, with production expected by 2028.

- Compiled from CMC News





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The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?

Trump Deportation Plans Stealing Joy From Haitians, Other Immigrants This Christmas

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
 Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Haitian immigrant Claudine, who didn't want to give her last name, is living in fear this Christmas that she will be deported once President-elect Donald Trump declares a national emergency on the first day he returns to power in the White House on January 20, 2025.

One of Trump's campaign promises was launching the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history. To many immigrants, especially the undocumented right now, he is like The Grinch who is stealing the joy out of their Christmas.

"I don't want to go back to Haiti with the violence and the killings by gangs," Claudine, who lives in Miami, told Caribbean Today recently. "I want to stay here with my

family."

She didn't want to disclose her immigration status or how long she has been living in Miami but said Trump's mass deportation plan could target her and some of her family members.

Claudine, who said she works in housekeeping, said she feels safe in Miami and fears the worst if she's deported. "I don't know what will happen to me if I have to go back to Haiti," she said. "I don't know what to do."

Like Claudine, millions of undocumented immigrants across the United States fear deportation once Trump's returns to office with his inauguration on January 20,



A Haitian immigrant in Springfield, Ohio prays amid fear in immigrant communities this holiday. (AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski)

2025, with the future uncertain.

Trump also said he will revoke the Temporary Protected Status, (TPS), enacted by President Joe Biden. The program has allowed more than 1.3 million immigrants from Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua seeking political asylum to stay in the U.S.

The decision mostly impacts South Florida which has the largest populations of Haitians, Cubans, Venezuelans and Nicaraguans in the nation.

One Haitian American woman in Little Haiti, who didn't want to give her name or also disclose her immigration status, said she may be targeted because of her heritage.

She also revealed she never participates in the U.S. Census fearing it's a trap to locate and deport immigrants.

"I don't like what Trump is doing," she told CT. "Haitians helped build this country and he wants to get rid of us."

Trump told reporters he will instruct the U.S. military to round up illegal immigrants for deportation. "On Day 1, I will launch the largest deportation program in American history to get the criminals out," he said. "I will rescue every city

and town that has been invaded and conquered, and we will put these vicious and bloodthirsty criminals in jail, then kick them the hell out of our country as fast as possible."

As Trump is assembling his team for his administration, to help carry out his mass deportation plan, he nominated former Acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Tom Homan for Border Czar and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem was tapped to be Homeland Security Secretary, pending Senate confirmation.

Homan told the Washington Examiner that the first priority is deporting illegal immigrants who are a threat like those with criminal records and ones who were already told to leave the country by a federal immigration judge but refused.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Bahamas Police Commissioner Calls U.S. Arrest Of Senior Officer “Devastating”

Bahamas Police Commissioner Clayton Fernander has described the arrest of a senior police officer in the United States on charges linked to a cocaine trafficking conspiracy, as well as firearm possession and use, as “devastating.” Chief Superintendent Elvis Curtis was detained and arraigned in US federal court last week, shaking the nation’s trust in its law enforcement institutions.

In a national address on Sunday, Fernander recounted being in Florida on November 26 with his family when he learned of Curtis’s arrest. He immediately informed Prime Minister Philip Davis and Minister of National Security Wayne Munroe of the situation.

“This moment was not just shocking; it was devastating,” Fernander told Bahamians, acknowledging the serious blow to the Royal Bahamas Police Force’s integrity. “It cuts to the core of the trust that the police are meant to represent.”

Allegations Raise New Questions

The indictment against Curtis includes accusations of activities beginning in May 2021. It also names Donald Frederick Ferguson II,

previously linked to the killing of Geovani Rolle, raising further concerns. Fernander pledged a thorough investigation and announced consultations with former police commissioners and political leaders to address potential oversights during their tenures.

He also emphasized the need for cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice while urging caution against speculative allegations. “At the moment, nobody knows who else may be implicated,” Fernander said, warning against unfounded claims that could harm innocent reputations.

Prime Minister and Minister of National Security React

Prime Minister Davis, addressing Parliament, vowed decisive action. “This betrayal will not go unanswered,” he said, committing to hold all those responsible accountable. National Security Minister Wayne Munroe dismissed rumors implicating him, stating categorically that he had not engaged in or facilitated wrongdoing.



Bahamas Police Commissioner Clayton Fernander

Tackling Corruption in Law Enforcement

Fernander detailed ongoing efforts to restore public trust, including investigations into other allegations involving senior officers and reforms aimed at curbing systemic corruption. He highlighted the need for independent civilian oversight and legislative changes to ensure accountability and transparency within the police force.

“We are well aware that there is still a lot of work to do,” Fernander admitted, pointing to new initiatives and successful

collaborations with international partners like the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. “From today, we will redouble our efforts to stamp out corruption.”

The Commissioner stressed that addressing the culture of corruption requires bold reforms, public support, and sustained commitment. “This framework targets the failures and breaches in trust that have brought us to this point,” he said.

US DA

Meanwhile, Caribbean American District Attorney of the Southern District of New York, Damian Williams, praised the outstanding investigative work of the DEA’s Special Operations Division’s Bilateral Investigations Unit, Nassau Country Office, Bogota Country Office, and Panama City Country Office, as well as the assistance of the Office of International Affairs of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division.

“As alleged, for years, drug traffickers have smuggled tons of cocaine through The Bahamas with the support and protection of corrupt Bahamian government officials who control airports throughout the country and provide sensitive information

about U.S. Coast Guard movements to drug traffickers,” he said. “This Indictment is the latest in a series of charges that this Office and the DEA’s Special Operations Division have brought against corrupt government officials around the globe who partner with dangerous cocaine traffickers. Today’s charges should serve as yet another powerful wake-up call to corrupt officials everywhere—we will not rest until you are held accountable for your role in the drug trade that is poisoning this country and our community. I commend the career prosecutors of this Office and our partners at the DEA for their tireless efforts to disrupt drug-fueled corruption wherever it takes hold.”

The case is being handled by the Office’s National Security and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan L. Bodansky, Nicholas S. Bradley, and Juliana N. Murray are in charge of the prosecution.

If you or someone you know has information about the conduct in this case, please contact the DEA’s tip line at BahamasNarcoTips@dea.gov.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Some remained in the U.S. long after their visas expire.

Homan said an estimated 1.3 million illegal immigrants nationwide were ordered to leave the U.S. but defied the order. “President Trump’s been clear: public safety threats and national security threats will be the priority because they have to be. They pose the most danger to this country,” he stated. “We’re going to prioritize those groups, those who already have final orders, those that had due process at great taxpayer expense, and the federal judge says you must go home. And that didn’t. They became a fugitive.”

Trump’s mass deportation threat leaves local immigrants, even those who have filed initial papers to stay while seeking citizenship, scrambling for refuge to avoid being deported to their native countries.

But some critics and experts say the mass deportation

operation is nearly impossible and costly.

It would include locating, apprehending, detaining and then deporting undocumented immigrants through flights which could cost at least \$992 million, according to a report from the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump adviser Stephen Miller said once the illegal immigrants are arrested, they will be subsequently detained in detention centers. Each one would need to hold at least 70,000 people, which is 10 times the capacity for Trump’s immigrant deportation operation during his first term.

“The plan to build new detention space is greater than any national infrastructure project we’ve done to date,” Miller said on Fox News.

But undocumented immigrants across the country could be given the option of leaving the U.S. on their own

before they are apprehended.

Despite Homan’s claim that the priority is deporting criminals and people ordered to leave the country, some migrants feel they might be targeted as well. Especially after a federal Texas judge recently blocked a program that streamlined a pathway to citizenship by allowing illegal immigrants to marry U.S. citizens to gain citizenship.

The ruling was a blow to the Biden’s administration’s Keep Families Together Program which promotes family unity in the immigration system.

The lawsuit was filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton which could affect over 500,000 illegal immigrants married to U.S. citizens.

North Miami Democratic House Rep. Dotie Joseph, who was born in Haiti, she’s worried for the Haitian American migrants in her community.

“How that’s going to play out within the Haitian American remains to be seen,” said Joseph, who’s an attorney by trade. “We know that Trump has said that he wants to eliminate TPS, not just for Haitian Americans but basically all Black and brown countries. Which is problematic, especially for people who were recipients of the humanitarian parole program, specifically people from Haiti, Venezuela, and I think Nicaragua. So that’s going to impact our community from South Florida and throughout Florida altogether.

So, a lot of it is a bunch of question marks right now and how much latitude Congress and the courts will give him.”

Marjorie Cobb, a member of the local Haitian-American Democratic Club, said many Haitian immigrants or Haitians on TPS in South Florida are in fear of being deported.

This after Trump made bigotry comments about Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio and Puerto Ricans.

“The president-elect and a Congress and House led by those who haven’t always supported immigrant rights might seem like a tough road ahead,” she said. “After every election, it’s natural for policies to shift, especially with a new party in power. This doesn’t mean immediate changes for TPS holders or other immigrants, but it does mean we have to stay alert and informed. It’s possible that there may be new proposals or discussions around immigration policies, but remember that change doesn’t happen overnight.”

Cobb said despite Haitians immigration status being in peril, she encouraged them to continue to build their lives and work hard for the time being. “Let’s focus on things we can control day-to-day, like showing up for work, being present for our families, and continuing to build our future here in the U.S.,” she said. “The future may be uncertain, but the actions we take today matter.”

Haitians’ fear of being deported to the gang-torn Caribbean nation, which experienced one of the worst mass gang killings in decades in October.

According to The Guardian, at least 115 people were shot or stabbed to death when gang members attacked Pont-Sonde, and the death toll continues to rise. In a brazen act recently, gang members allegedly shot at a Spirits Airlines plane flying from Ft. Lauderdale and tried to land in Haiti.

The flight was diverted to the Dominican Republic and no major injuries were reported. All of the airline’s services at Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien, (CAP) have since been suspended.

The gang violence has Haitians fleeing to the U.S. in record numbers. Since the gang violence commenced, Haitians have been fleeing the Caribbean island in record numbers.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, about 220,798 Haitians tried to enter the U.S. during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which is up by 35 percent from the previous year. It’s also the highest in the last decade.

The data was based on counts of people using certain legal pathways to enter the U.S. as well as those apprehended.



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Elon Musk Now has His Eyes On Guyana

Elon Musk is now reportedly eyeing the oil rich CARICOM, South American nation of Guyana, to deploy Starlink, even as he positions himself to become one of the most powerful men in the Donald Trump administration.

The SpaceX and satellite Internet service, Starlink founder, is eyeing a license to operate in Guyana, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has announced. The move could bring new connectivity opportunities to the country, particularly for remote hinterland regions.

Starlink, a satellite Internet constellation operated by SpaceX and founded by the billionaire entrepreneur, X owner, Trump campaign backer and newly appointed co-head of the Department of Government Efficiency, an entity Trump indicated will operate outside the confines of government, is currently under review by the Guyanese government.

Speaking at his weekly press conference recently, Dr. Jagdeo said the proposal is "actively being considered" and highlighted the potential benefits of granting Starlink an official license, including tax revenue for the government.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Musk were recently in talks and Musk expressed his intentions to invest in Guyana technological sector, as it provides a gateway to economic

enhancement through digitization and modernization.

Currently, Starlink services are informally accessed in Guyana, with private individuals importing the equipment to provide internet access to underserved areas. Dr. Jagdeo noted that this arrangement is inequitable for other companies offering similar services, as they are required to pay taxes. An approved license for Starlink would ensure the company adheres to the same regulatory standards.

Discussions about Starlink's potential entry into Guyana were first revealed after a meeting in July between President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Elon Musk. The Office of the President described the talks as focusing on economic innovation, technological advancements, and opportunities within various sectors of Guyana's rapidly growing economy.

If approved, Starlink's presence could significantly boost Internet connectivity across Guyana, particularly in regions where traditional infrastructure has struggled to meet demand. Jagdeo emphasized the



Elon Musk is now reportedly eyeing the oil rich CARICOM, South American nation of Guyana, to deploy Starlink, even as he positions himself to become one of the most powerful men in the Donald Trump administration. (Reuters image)

importance of the company being fully licensed and adhering to all tax laws. He further noted that some people are illegally bypassing tax requirements by personally importing equipment and providing Internet. He also stated that "currently, many people are bringing in the dishes themselves, installing them, and avoiding taxes, which is unfair to the other companies providing similar services."

According to Section 5 subsection 2 of Guyana's Corporation Tax Act, if a non-resident company conducts trade or business in Guyana, all profits made in Guyana are chargeable to corporation tax.

ABOUT STARLINK

Starlink is a satellite internet

service operated by Starlink Services, LLC, a subsidiary of SpaceX, the American aerospace company founded by Musk. With coverage extending to over 100 countries and territories, Starlink aims to provide high-speed global mobile broadband, playing a pivotal role in SpaceX's growth trajectory.

Since launching its first satellites in 2019, SpaceX has deployed over 7,000 small

satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO) as of September 2024. This figure is expected to grow, with plans for up to 34,400 satellites in the future. The network achieved a milestone of 1 million subscribers in December 2022 and reached 4 million by September 2024.

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Bahamas Minister Denies Involvement In Alleged Cocaine Trafficking Scheme

Bahamas National Security Minister Wayne Munroe has firmly denied allegations suggesting he is the "high-ranking politician" implicated by U.S. law enforcement in facilitating a cocaine trafficking scheme.

In an interview with The Tribune newspaper, Munroe emphasized he has neither received money nor engaged in any misconduct.

"I have not offered to accommodate any wrongdoing, and I state that categorically," Munroe asserted.

Prime Minister Phillip Davis, addressing Parliament recently, expressed deep concern over revelations by U.S. authorities linking members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and the Royal Bahamas Defence

Force (RBDF) to corruption. He described the allegations as a grave breach of national integrity.

"Madam Speaker, this House and the Bahamian people deserve answers," Davis said, pledging decisive action to hold those responsible accountable, regardless of rank or position. "This betrayal will not go unanswered," he declared.

U.S. Allegations of Corruption Damian Williams, the Caribbean American U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, outlined the allegations recently, stating that for years, drug traffickers have smuggled tons of cocaine through The Bahamas with the assistance of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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NEWS



These South Florida Residents Celebrate Gratitude And A Renewed Christmas Cheer

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

While toasting to their new jobs, a friend of Barrington Bavier told him the old cliché: Christmas is right around the corner.

And as a joke, Bavier told Steven Kramer he went looking for it but couldn't find it. "I had to get that one in," Bavier said with laughter at Doral's Ale House. "Christmas time brings out the best in people ... jokes, fun, gifts, and Santa."

For Bavier, a 34-year-old from Bahamas, the mood for this holiday season was a far cry from last year when he was melancholy since he was unemployed and unable to buy Christmas gifts for his two kids - 11-year-old Raquel and Jason, 8.

He lost his job at a warehouse in Miami due to the company's budget cuts and the family had to tighten their belts to squeeze out money for the rent, utility bills and groceries. His wife, Kala Bavier, was the only one working in

the household, earning about a \$30,000 per year salary. But even with his unemployment compensation, their family barely had enough money to cover their expenses.

That left them with no money to buy Christmas gifts for their children. "I was hurt," said Bavier. "To see their looks when we told them no Christmas gifts this year was painful."

Bavier is among several South Florida residents whose Christmas spirits were demoralized last year due to financial strains and other personal issues. But 2024 marked a turning point in their lives and they are filled with gratitude.

Now Christmas 2024 will be different: money for presents, a turkey and dinner and stereo to play Christmas carols.

Out of work for a year, Bavier was hired by Amazon to work in the warehouse at the multi-national technology giant for a better salary than his previous job.

He said the frustration he endured searching for a job for



12 months without any luck took a toll on him. "I was knocking things down at our place, and didn't want to talk to anybody," Bavier said. "I was rude to some people because I was frustrated."

To celebrate their new jobs, Kramer and Bavier, who both were hired at the same time,

went out for drinks, hoping the opportunity will lead to a career boost.

"The first week we worked together, we hit off," said Kramer. "We became friends on the job and I'm happy to see him in a position where he can provide for his family now."

Nadine Pierre's 2023 holiday season wasn't a bright one as well. The Haitian-born social worker's 2023 holiday season celebration turned tragic when her mother passed away two weeks before Christmas.

"A happy occasion turned into a sad one," said Pierre, who lives in Lauderhill. "Christmas will never be the same without

my mother."

This year, Pierre and her family, including two sisters, are planning to reunite since her mother's home-going celebration for the Christmas holiday.

She said she hopes the gathering will bring solace in the wake of her mother's death. "I still miss her, I cry a lot because my mother was everything to me and my family," she said. "We need to be around each other for the holidays, especially to celebrate her memory."

Being unemployed during the holiday in Florida can dampen Christmas spirits and can be frustrating.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, an estimated 5,207 unemployment claims were filed in Florida in November and December 2023. Despite the unemployment rate being down by 2.9 percent from 2022 around the same time, the number out of work was still considerably high.

The national unemployment rate, which has been under 4 percent for 22 months, was 3.7 percent in November 2023. During the first quarter of 2024, the unemployment rate in Florida was down compared to 2023 due to new jobs including in agriculture, hospitality, construction and other laborer jobs that employed Bavier.



Lead Singer Of Third World Expands To Visual Art

A.J. Brown, lead singer of the iconic Third World Band, expands his artistic repertoire with a collection of vivid visual art currently on display at The Marshall L. Davis, Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Avenue, Miami.

His works, painted in acrylic, celebrate the colors of nature and the artistic traditions of multiple cultures. From portraits to abstract pieces, landscapes, and still life, Brown draws inspiration from the rich cultural vibrancy of America, Jamaica, Ethiopia, and the Caribbean diaspora.

The exhibition, 'Celebrating Art, Beauty, and Cultural Legacy,' features three distinct showcases:

Double Exposure:

Brown's fusion of music and art, presented through his vibrant paintings, captures the interconnectedness of creative expression and cultural heritage.

A Legacy of Elegance:

Designer Margarett Joyner reimagines 19th-century



A.J. Brown with one of his pieces at the at The Marshall L. Davis, Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Avenue, Miami.

high-society garments with 12 costumes that blend African textiles with colonial-era aesthetics, reflecting on their cultural and historical significance.

Black Beauty as an Act

of Resistance: This powerful exhibit pays homage to African-descended women's beauty rituals within a recreated 1930s back-porch hair shop. It explores the significance of hair in identity and resilience, spotlighting pioneers like David and Laurel Julius, founders of the Sunlight School of Beauty Culture. Laurel, a former stylist for Madame CJ Walker, and her husband operated transformative beauty schools in Alabama and Jamaica.

Visit The Marshall L. Davis, Sr., African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for an inspiring celebration of art, culture, and legacy through these compelling exhibits.



Bahamas Minister Denies Involvement In Alleged Cocaine Trafficking Scheme

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

corrupt government officials. These officials allegedly provided sensitive information about U.S. Coast Guard movements and facilitated drug operations at Bahamian airports.

"This indictment is the latest in a series of charges brought by this office and the DEA's Special Operations Division against corrupt government officials around the globe who partner with dangerous cocaine traffickers," Williams said.

Thirteen individuals have been charged in connection with the massive cocaine trafficking conspiracy, which was reportedly enabled by "corrupt Bahamian government officials." According to the indictment, in September 2024, one individual claimed that a high-ranking Bahamian politician agreed to authorize armed RBPF support for cocaine shipments in exchange for a \$2 million bribe.

Munroe Defers to Prime Minister

Currently attending a CARICOM meeting in St. Kitts, Munroe told The Tribune that disclosing the politician's identity would depend on whether the U.S. provides information

confidentially. "The prime minister is dealing directly with that aspect of it, and I would prefer to defer to him," he said.

Police Accountability

Munroe also addressed public speculation regarding the future of Police Commissioner Clayton Fernander amid the arrests of RBPF members. He underscored the importance of accountability at all levels.

"The simple answer, as put by the prime minister, is that we're going to be holding everyone accountable. This is a very serious matter," Munroe said. He pointed out that the timeline of the alleged conspiracy began in May 2021, prior to the current administration and Fernander's leadership.

He noted that the RBPF has demonstrated a willingness to hold officers accountable and emphasized that what would be reprehensible is if wrongdoing were covered up.

"What is being demonstrated is that the police force isn't covering up for persons," Munroe stated.

- Rewritten from Loop Caribbean



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Lowell Hawthorne Foundation Gala Raises Funds To Support Needy Students

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Considered a titan of Caribbean commerce, Jamaican Lowell Hawthorne was hailed as a visionary when he died in 2017 at age 57. Founder of the Golden Krust Restaurant chain, he was an advocate of a sound education, especially for persons of color.

To carry on his legacy, his wife Lorna Hawthorne established the Lowell F Hawthorne Foundation, (LFHF), shortly after his death. That organization staged its third gala on November 14th at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, New York.

The event raised funds to offset tuition fees for students from the Caribbean and the United States. Mrs. Hawthorne did not disclose the amount her team raised, but said she is “incredibly pleased with the turnout and the overwhelming support we received.”

The businesswoman added that the galas have raised over \$200,000 to date. Her team consults with school administrators who provide information on “different requirements and thresholds” for needy students.

“This initiative is incredibly significant to me and the memory of my late husband, Lowell. Education was something Lowell



Members of the Hawthorne family, operators of Golden Krust Restaurant, at the November 14th Lowell F. Hawthorne Foundation gala in New Rochelle, New York. From left-right: Damion Hawthorne, Daren Hawthorne, Lorna Hawthorne, Herma Hawthorne, Omar Hawthorne, Leroy Hawthorne and Haywood Hawthorne. The event raised funds for needy students. (Contributed image)

believed in deeply, and he often said that “if we fail to educate our people, we run the risk of depriving our communities of social, political, and economic empowerment”. Keeping his legacy alive through the Foundation’s work is my way of honoring his passion for uplifting our communities,” said Lorna Hawthorne.

Lowell Hawthorne was from St. Andrew parish in rural Jamaica. He migrated to the United States in the 1980s, and with the support of relatives, started Golden Krust Restaurant in The Bronx in 1989.

The company transformed

from a Mom and Pop entity to a national franchise with over 100 stores in nine states. Its specialties are popular Jamaican dishes such as patties, soups, curried goat, and jerked chicken.

At last month’s gala, four people were honored for excelling in their respective fields. They were:

- Dr. Melvin I Douglass, an African American who received the Educator Leadership Award, for “unwavering dedication to education and the Cave Whiteman Scholarship Programme,” which mentors and empowers at-risk

students.

- Velma Hawthorne, Lowell Hawthorne’s sister-in-law, who received the Philanthropic Impact Award, for commitment to community service and advancing the LFHF’s mission.

- Dr. Reginald E Manning, an African-American orthopedist, received the Community Leadership Award, “for innovative contributions to healthcare and education,

including co-founding the Borough of Brooklyn Center for Arts & Technology to address chronic unemployment.”

- Christopher Williams, one of Jamaica’s leading businessmen, who was honored with the Business Leadership Award, for his “transformative influence on the Caribbean financial sector.”



City Of Miramar Applauds Move To Protect Airport West Site

The City of Miramar has commended Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava for her decision to preserve the environmental integrity of the Airport West site, recognizing its importance to Everglades Restoration and clean water initiatives.

The decision reflects concerns raised by Miramar officials and residents about public health risks.

Caribbean American Mayor, Wayne M. Messam, praised the collaborative effort, stating, “Mayor Levine Cava’s leadership in addressing our

concerns and prioritizing public health is commendable. While this recommendation to select an alternative site is a step forward, the final decision rests with the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners.”

Miramar executives say they, however, remain vigilant, urging the board to support the mayor’s proposal and reject incineration-based waste solutions. The city reaffirmed its dedication to protecting residents and ecosystems while advocating for sustainable, community-focused policies.



US-Based Soca Artist Protests Vybz Kartel’s Carnival Friday

U.S.-based Trinidadian Soca artist Kevon “Yankey Boy” Heath has launched a hunger strike to protest Jamaican dancehall star Vybz Kartel’s scheduled performance on Carnival Friday 2025 in Trinidad and Tobago.

Kartel, known offstage as Adidja Palmer, is set to appear at the One Caribbean Music Festival on February 28, 2025, the same night as the highly anticipated Soca Monarch competition.

Expressing his frustration on Instagram, Yankey Boy acknowledged his admiration for Kartel but voiced concerns about the event’s timing. “Soca Monarch is a platform for our upcoming artists to showcase their talent. Bringing Kartel on this night could overshadow our culture,” he stated.

He also criticized the blending of dancehall and Soca during key Caribbean events, noting experiences at Labor Day in Brooklyn and Miami Carnival. “This isn’t representing our culture. It’s a disservice to Soca,” he said.

Promoters Respond

In a statement, the organizers of the One Caribbean Music Festival clarified that the event will feature a diverse lineup with 80% Soca and 20% other genres. “Our event aims to celebrate the best of Caribbean music while respecting Trinidad’s rich Carnival traditions,” the statement

read.

Organizers also dismissed a viral social media video confirming Kartel’s performance, emphasizing that it was not officially released by the festival. Details of the full lineup will be announced in the coming weeks.

Mixed Reactions from the Industry

The debate has sparked widespread discussion on social media and airwaves. Soca star Fayann Lyons-Alvarez defended the inclusion of dancehall acts, highlighting the unity among Caribbean artists. “We’ve been part of reggae shows and festivals. It’s about promoting culture and celebrating our shared heritage,” she said.

Lyons-Alvarez dismissed claims that Kartel’s presence would diminish Soca’s prominence, noting, “Soca Monarch hasn’t been held for years, yet there wasn’t this level of outcry. This festival is a showcase, not a takeover.”

As discussions continue, the One Caribbean Music Festival organizers say they remain committed to presenting a celebration of the region’s diverse music and culture, ensuring Soca remains a focal point for Carnival 2025.

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Christmas Book Review - A Life Shaped By Love, Loss, And Resilience

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The last time I spoke to retired political science professor, Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, was the start of 2024 when his book 'Challenged Sovereignty: The Impact of Drugs, Crime, Terrorism, and Cyber Threats in the Caribbean,' was published. In it, he focused on the threats of international drug crime and its deleterious effects across the Caribbean region.

Now, to close out the year, this prolific writer has published yet another book – 'Sylvie's Love and Loss,' and he has taken a huge leap with this one. This latest publication is his first novel, and more specifically, a romance novel.

EMOTIONAL

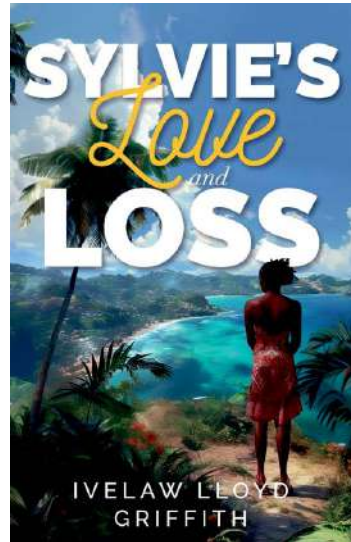
Yes, it is set in the Caribbean and there is a similar drug theme running through it. But we are also entertained and ultimately pulled into an emotional story that fascinates and moves us closer to the characters. There are no brutal statistics of international drug gangs who use Caribbean islands as transshipment points. Instead, we get the sensitive story of a young woman's path through life, and lovers who get caught up in the web of drug trafficking.

In a conversation with the Caribbean Today recently, Griffith explained that the novel

is loosely based on an actual encounter he had with 'Sylvie,' name changed for obvious reasons, on the small island of Grenada back in 1994, while doing research for a scholarly work on drugs in the Caribbean, which was ultimately published in 1997.

The perfect setting for a different kind of story, the author vowed to revisit the experience through a novel someday. "The back story for this novel actually is connected to my scholarly academic work," commented Griffith. "It goes back two and a half decades when I was working on another project and had this astounding experience in Grenada. And I said then: 'I'm gonna have to write a novel about this whole thing when I retire.'"

Well, so said so done. We are introduced to Sylvie and her family through the eyes of a visiting scholar on a trip to the island of Grenada. Like so many families across the Caribbean, they are of modest means, hardworking and with ambitions for a better life. Sylvie's life is marked with loss from an early age through parental abandonment. But, with the love of Ma-Ma Roberts, the larger-than-life maternal figure in this story, Sylvie and her younger siblings find balance. Things go well for Sylvie as she lands a job in the tourism sector



that promises to take off. But her path would be set when she got the opportunity to migrate to Canada that would careen into life-changing losses leading to deportation.

So authentic, so tragic is her story that we 'feel' for Sylvie. We want her to crawl out of the gutter she has landed in. We want her to 'come back'. And she seemingly does with a new love, Rastaman an educated agriculturalist from Jamaica.

LANGUAGE

Part of what gives the real feel to this novel is Griffith's use of language and local culture. We 'hear' the differences in the Grenadian creole, the Jamaican Patwa, the Trinidadian sing-song

cadence in the characters words that are sprinkled throughout the book. The flora and fauna, indigenous to the island, comes alive as we walk through gardens. We learn about the special herbs used to contain and cure illnesses through the wise elders we meet. In fact, explained Griffith, some of the characters are drawn from his own network of experiences, some personal experiences, some family experiences. For example, Ma-Ma Roberts, one of the central characters in the novel, is very much like his own grandmother, who was a market vendor and a grandma to many in need.

"I wanted to reflect some of the vernacular local language," he told CT. "Our region is rich in language, not only in English or Spanish or French or Dutch or Papiamentu, but richness in the Creole."

The rich musical legacy of the region is also invoked through lyrics from icons like Bob Marley and Peter Tosh to young contemporary influencers like Koffee, through her hit song 'Toast,' praising gratitude and blessings. Griffith specifically chose Toast as a metaphor, for although Sylvie experiences unending negatives in her life, it is blessings that gets her to the other side.

'Sylvie's Love and Loss' is a mix of memories, sociology,

anthropology, geography around a complexity of characters. "The overall thrust of the book, novel though it is, is to reveal some of the warts of our region, of our societies - North America, Caribbean, Europe - in relation to drugs," he said. "And it's as much a sociological society issue as it is an individual Sylvie challenge."

By the end of the novel, we know that Sylvie must go in search of her past, which will reveal even more sociological entanglements. So, a sequel is definitely in the making. The author confirmed that he will begin writing it sometime next year. But, in the meantime, Griffith continues his scholarly writing.

Indeed, once an academic, always an academic it would seem. But readers will be glad he can easily step out of that box sometimes.

Title: *Sylvie's Love and Loss*
Author: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith
Year Published: 2024
Available on Amazon



Caribbean Immigrant Author Dead At 80

Caribbean immigrant author and lecturer, Elizabeth Nunez, whose works masterfully explored themes of family, colonialism's lingering effects, and the immigrant experience, has died. According to the New York Times, she passed away at her home in Brooklyn. She was 80. Her son, Jason Harrell, told the Times the cause was complications from a stroke.

Dr. Nunez was celebrated for her ability to weave the complexities of identity, belonging, and history into her novels, often with sharp commentary on American academia and the New York publishing world.

A Life Rooted in Stories and Scholarship

Born on February 18, 1944, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Nunez grew up in a prominent family of Portuguese and African descent. Raised under the British colonial education system, she developed an early love for literature, devouring works by English authors like Enid Blyton and Jane Austen. This literary upbringing shaped her identity, even as she sought to move beyond the Eurocentric narratives of her childhood.

Her first novel, *When Rocks*

Dance (1986), marked the beginning of her literary journey. Initially planning to write about a modern academic in America, she instead delved into the historical and cultural tensions of her Trinidadian heritage.

Exploring Identity and Belonging

Dr. Nunez's novels often reflected her personal journey as a Trinidadian navigating life in the United States. Beyond the *Limbo Silence* (1998) mirrored her own experience as a young student attending a small Catholic college in Wisconsin, where she confronted her ignorance of Caribbean history and colonialism's harsh truths.

In *Grace* (2003), she portrayed the challenges of a Caribbean-born professor in Brooklyn, reflecting her own career at Medgar Evers College, where she encountered tensions with Black American colleagues.

Her critically acclaimed *Prospero's Daughter* (2006) reimagined Shakespeare's



The late Trinidad-and-Tobago born author, Elizabeth Nunez.

The Tempest in a Trinidadian setting, grappling with themes of xenophobia, power, and cultural clash.

Academic and Literary Contributions

Dr. Nunez earned her Ph.D. in literature from New York University and held leadership roles at Medgar Evers College, including chair of the English department and provost. She later joined Hunter College as a distinguished professor of English, retiring earlier this year.

A tireless advocate for Black literature, she co-founded the National Black Writers Conference, directing it for over a decade.

Despite her deep

connection to the Caribbean, Dr. Nunez resisted being boxed in as a "Caribbean writer," emphasizing her broader literary contributions. "I don't mind being classified as a Caribbean writer," she told The Miami Herald in 2006, "as long as it's a subcategory in literary fiction."

Legacy

Nunez authored 11 novels, including *Now Lila Knows* (2022). Her memoir, *Not for Everyday Use* (2014), offered a poignant look at her upbringing and the intricate relationships within her family.

She is survived by her son, Jason Harrell; 10 siblings; and two granddaughters.

Nunez leaves behind a literary legacy that transcends borders, championing stories that resonate with the complexities of identity, history, and the human spirit.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Our November 2024 feature, *Marva Bernard - Creating A Netball Movement*, inadvertently omitted the writer's byline. The story was written by our talented feature writer, Dawn A. Davis. We apologize for the oversight.

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To Latino Pastors Supporting Trumpeto: Remember Martin Niemöller

In a recent PBS News segment, Rev. Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, an advisor to both George W. Bush and Barack Obama, and now a supporter of Donald Trumpeto, suggested that Latinos have “broken up” with the Democratic Party and are embracing MAGA, despite the anti-immigrant rhetoric, largely due to “faith and familia.”



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

As he attempted to explain the 45 plus percentage point of Latino voters who went for Trumpeto despite his labeling of immigrants as “animals,” “vermin” and “poisoning the blood” of America, Rodriguez, who has Puerto Rican roots, said Latinos are now growingly embracing evangelical Christianity and moving toward what he called “biblically substantiated truths” and, consequently, more conservative political stances.

Rodriguez argued that today’s Democratic Party no longer represents the classic center-left ideals of Barack Obama’s time. Instead, he claims, it has veered into “extreme left” territory on many issues. He noted that while many Latinos may personally dislike Trump, they feel his policies better align with their values and beliefs as Latino Christians.

Yet, Rodriguez did acknowledge concerns about Trump’s policy of mass deportations, he asserted that he had received “assurances” from the Trump team that deportations would target criminals and national security threats.

His understanding, he said, is that “good, God-fearing, hardworking families” who have been here for years would not be targeted.

To Rodriguez and to all Latino pastors who may have led their congregations into supporting a leader whose actions could pose real threats to Latino communities and all of us, I urge you to remember the words of Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemöller. Niemöller, a German theologian

and Lutheran pastor, who was a supporter of Adolf Hitler in his early years.

However, as the Nazis’ grip on Germany tightened, Niemöller came to oppose Hitler’s regime, eventually becoming a founder of the Confessing Church, a Christian resistance movement against the Nazi takeover of German Protestant churches.

Niemöller’s most famous words, quoted widely after the Holocaust, remind us of the dangers of standing by while others suffer. In his 1946 poem, he wrote: “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me— - and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Niemöller recognized, too late, that his early support of the Nazis enabled the very regime that would imprison him in concentration camps for years. He narrowly escaped execution and later spent his life as an advocate for peace, deeply regretting that he had not done more to protect the Nazis’ victims.

I remind all immigrant supporters of Trumpeto, of Niemöller’s words, not to equate the incoming administration with Nazi Germany, but to underscore the dangerous consequences of endorsing policies that target and oppress others under the guise of selective compassion or political alignment.

Today, it is convenient for some Latino leaders to argue that only “criminals” or “national security threats” will be targeted, or that “good families” will be spared from mass deportations. However, history has shown us that such distinctions are unreliable. Once a system of mass deportation is in place, who decides who is deemed a threat, a criminal, or expendable?

Trump’s policies are not just abstract political maneuvers. They affect real people - families, children, and communities. His appointed border czar Tom Homan is biting at the bit to execute.

For those who are considered “safe” today, there is no guarantee that they won’t be targeted

tomorrow. It is essential that Latino pastors and leaders consider not just the promises made by politicians, but the potential impact of those policies on the most vulnerable among us. Today, it may be “criminals” or those involved in “nefarious activities,” but what about tomorrow?

As a community rooted in faith, compassion, and resilience, we must not ignore

the consequences of policies that dehumanize others. Supporting leaders who actively promote divisive, harmful policies not only endangers vulnerable groups but ultimately threatens the fabric of our community.

Let Niemöller’s words be a warning to those willing to trade in compassion and solidarity for political gains. We must stand together now - before there is no

one left to speak for us.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Felicia J. Persaud is the publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, a daily news outlet focused on positive news about Black immigrant communities from the Caribbean and Latin America.



Learn about this Dangerous Trend

Watch a Conversations on Cannabis virtual forum to hear experts discuss the rise in teens vaping marijuana, the risks, and how parents can intervene.



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Cell Mates

The ubiquitous telephone has provided us with more than an outlet for people to communicate with each other, and from its invention. When Alexander Graham Bell allegedly made that first call on the instrument saying, to his assistant who was in another room: “Mr. Watson come here, I want to see you,” the die was cast and the phone entered our lives.



TONY ROBINSON

Let’s fast forward to the modern day cellphone that has brought so much joy, misery, anguish, anxiety, trauma, into the lives of so many persons. It’s the new appendage of the human body.

There is alcohol addiction, cigarette addiction, drug addiction and now telephone addiction, although they haven’t given it a psychological classification as yet. The truth is, some people are addicted to their phones and spend countless hours staring at the screen or talking on it - becoming cell mates.

But just like the addict, if you point out this affliction to them,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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What Trump's Return Means For Caribbean-U.S. Relations

BY SIR RON SANDERS

Like much of the world, the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) countries, at both governmental and public levels, are contemplating what relations to expect from a new Donald Trump administration.

Judging from the opinion pieces, editorials, and various web discussions emanating from the region, it is evident that the overwhelming hope was for Kamala Harris to emerge as the 47th President of the United States of America (US). This hope was based on many things, including her identity as a woman of colour with a Jamaican father.

But the hope for Harris was also based on a fear of Mr. Trump's policies, interpreted from his last administration as well as things he said on the campaign trail. Amid the latter were references against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, opposition to what Mr. Trump referred to as a "woke" curriculum (often associated with teaching U.S. history that includes slavery, segregation, and civil rights movements), and suggested restrictions on voting such as voter ID laws, limitations on mail-in ballots, and fewer polling places that could be barriers to voting access, especially for marginalized communities.

The heated remarks regarding immigrants, throughout the campaign, would also have troubled Caribbean migrants in the US and their families at home.

However, it should also be recognised that among the Caribbean immigrant community in the US and populations in the Caribbean itself, there was admiration for Mr. Trump and support for his leadership style.

He was revered as a strong leader, and many believed that conditions for the US Black population had improved during his last administration.

Regardless of where Caribbean governments, private sector leaders, or societies stood on the election, Donald Trump has been elected with a significant majority of the popular vote, and he won much more than the necessary votes required for the country's electoral college to declare him the undisputed winner.

The latter fact was clear to both incumbent President Joe Biden and to Kamala Harris, who called Trump to concede defeat and to congratulate him.

All Caribbean governments should do the same, as did Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, on November 6 after it was declared that Trump had attained more than the 270 votes needed in the Electoral College.

The decision about the Presidency of the U.S. rests solely with the electorate of the country.

It is to the U.S. electorate and the U.S. Constitution that Mr. Trump is responsible. His task is made easier by the fact

that his Republican Party now has a majority in the Senate, Republican appointees dominate the U.S. Supreme Court, and, as this commentary is being written, the Republicans are also close to securing the majority in the House of Representatives. All this puts Mr. Trump in a strong position to carry out his policies and execute his programmes in the domestic, regional, and international spheres.

Three main areas will concern Caribbean relations with the U.S. under Mr. Trump's presidency. These are: trade and aid; climate change and global peace and stability.

Mr. Trump has made it clear that he is dissatisfied with the U.S. balance of trade surplus with several countries, especially China and the European Union (EU). He advocated for a universal minimum tariff of 10% on all imports, with the potential for higher rates on specific goods or from certain countries; he also talked of a "Trump Reciprocal Trade Act," granting the president authority to impose reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose tariffs on U.S. goods.

In this matter, the Caribbean region and CARICOM countries particularly are in a good place. The U.S. has enjoyed a perennial balance of trade surplus with CARICOM countries collectively. In 2023, the U.S. trade surplus was \$7.4 billion.

The figure would have been larger had it not been for trade deficits with Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago of \$1.9 billion and \$889 million respectively, because of U.S. imports of needed oil and gas.

When this figure is compared with U.S. aid to CARICOM countries, it shows that the U.S. trade surplus far exceeds U.S. aid. U.S. total global aid in 2023 was \$61 billion, half of which went to ten countries, principally Ukraine (\$16.4 billion) and Israel (\$3.3 billion). All of the 14 independent CARICOM countries received \$456.2 million of which \$393.8 million went to Haiti, leaving \$62.4 million for the remaining 13 countries. In other words, the U.S. trade surplus with CARICOM countries is \$7 billion more than the aid given by the U.S. CARICOM might consider ways to leverage this economic interdependence to improve trade terms and promote greater investment in the region.

Mr. Trump has also declared his intention to lower the U.S. corporate tax rate from 21% to 15%. This has two implications for the Caribbean.

First, some Caribbean countries may have to reduce their own corporate tax rates to remain competitive. Second, if the U.S. pursues a unilateral tax strategy, breaking ranks with the OECD, it could potentially unravel the OECD's imposed tax rules, satisfying many Caribbean countries.

On Climate Change, Mr. Trump's policies will pose difficulties for Caribbean



Donald Trump attends the America First Policy Institute Gala held at Mar-a-Lago on Nov. 14, 2024 in Palm Beach, Florida. (Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

countries which are among the worst affected by extreme weather conditions, including global warming and sea level rise. During his presidential campaign, he downplayed climate change and again expressed his intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, and to expand oil and gas production, removing regulations that impede fossil fuel extraction.

CARICOM countries, however, remain committed to sustainable development and will

need to engage the U.S. in urgent discussions to ensure progress on global climate goals.

With regard to global peace and stability, most Caribbean countries have been deeply concerned about the conflict between Israel and Palestinian groups. They firmly believe that achieving a two-state solution in which the two peoples can live within secure borders is essential. Mr. Trump's declared strong commitment to Israel and its Prime Minister will require much

diplomacy and commitment.

CARICOM has a history of supporting multilateral peace efforts, and it is likely they will seek to uphold a balanced approach to Middle East peace within international forums.

At a people-to-people level, the U.S. and the Caribbean have been so deeply intertwined historically that only the current social instability and economic underdevelopment, promoting large numbers of refugees to flee illegally to the U.S., poses a threat to the continuing strength of their relationship.

But the U.S. and the Caribbean live in close proximity to each other and therefore, like all close relationships, they both have to preserve their relations in each other's interest not only for the present but also for the future.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own.*

- CMC



Cell Mates

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

they'll vehemently deny it. "Oh no, I don't use my phone a lot, I'm just checking something."

Apart from this addiction though, are the ramifications that the phone has on relationships and on lovers, and little did JC Lodge and Shabba Ranks realize how profound the words were with their song, Telephone Love.

"When you call I feel so good, wishing you were living in my neighborhood.

So, you can hang up the phone and rush on over.

Pick up where we left off under the cover.

Telephone love, you sound so sweet on the line.

Telephone love, you make my day every time."

It sounds so romantic, but that same telephone has resulted in the destruction and demise of many relationships.

The last thing that many people want is for their partner to have access to their cellphone, as that can lead to their downfall. And even when there's nothing to hide, prying, nosy, snooping eyes will still bore into their partner's phone and misread what's there. "So what did you mean when you said the coast is clear and out of sight out of mind?"

Many people have paid the price for divulging their password to their partner in case of an emergency, as a 'just in case' contingency. That's why some persons use codes for their contact information, so if the man happens to access his woman's phone and sees, 'plumber,' 'gym,' 'hardware,' he'll think that it's just tradesmen that she uses from time to time.

Therefore, people will go to almost any lengths to conceal the contents



of their phone from their cell mates.

"Surinamese politician shoots phone to hide call from his wife, gun seized.

"Police in Suriname have seized a parliamentarian's gun after the man was seen on video shooting his cellphone. Surinamese media reported that the man had received a call from a woman while his wife was sitting next to him. He reportedly shot the phone to prevent her from finding out who had called him."

The extent to which people will go to hide cell mate interaction is extraordinary. But even though they may try, the evidence is often most revealing if you can read between the lines. If your spouse's phone rings and he or she speaks in mono syllables, that's a dead giveaway.

"Hello, hmm, hmm, yes, sure, right, same time, oh yes, okay, of course, me too."

"Who was that Dear?" "Oh

nobody, just a client."

Sometimes cell mate karma catches some people, as pocket calls may speed dial their spouse, while they're in the company of their lover, allowing the spouse to hear everything that's going on.

Imagine driving to the country with your lover and your phone dials your partner by accident? Every word you say, every breath you take, every move you make, every laugh, are all relayed to your partner at home who is fuming and breathing fire.

Cell Mates are real, but be careful who your cell mate is.

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



Shyne Tells On Diddy In New Hulu Documentary

Belize-born rapper-turned-politician Moses “Shyne” Barrow is finally sharing his side of the story about his decade-long prison sentence and his connection to Sean “Diddy” Combs.

In the upcoming Hulu documentary, ‘The Honorable Shyne,’ premiered on November 18th, the film delves into Barrow’s rise to fame, his fall from grace, and his eventual transformation into a political leader in Belize.

The Night That Changed Everything

Barrow, then a rising star in Diddy’s Bad Boy Records, recounts the fateful night in 1999 that led to his conviction. A nightclub shooting in New York City injured three people and resulted in Barrow’s arrest alongside Combs and then-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez. While Combs and Lopez made bail and Combs was later acquitted, Barrow was convicted and



‘The Honorable Shyne’ is now out on Hulu.

served eight years of a 10-year sentence before being deported to Belize.

Reflecting on that night, Barrow reveals in the documentary: “I went to Club New York with two weapons on me. A disagreement broke out, and I was caught in the middle. One of the men involved reached for his weapon, and that’s when I reached for mine.”

A Fallout with Diddy

In the documentary, Barrow accuses Combs of abandoning him during the trial and manipulating the legal process to secure his own acquittal. “When I was in The Tombs, Puff’s lawyers advised him to distance himself from me. I was left to rot in prison while he moved on,” Barrow says. He alleges that Combs’ lawyers orchestrated witness testimonies to ensure

Barrow was convicted.

Barrow recalls confronting Combs years later about the incident, saying, “You apologized back then, and I’ve healed, but I won’t restate the facts. If it weren’t for you, I would’ve made the case. I would’ve walked just like you.”

A spokesperson for Combs has categorically denied these allegations, calling them “unequivocally false.”

Life After Prison

After his release, Barrow left the music industry behind, embracing his Jewish faith and turning to politics. He became the leader of the opposition in Belize, using his platform to advocate for his community. Despite making a public appearance with Combs at the BET Lifetime Achievement tribute, Barrow says their reunion was for Belize’s benefit, not personal reconciliation.

“When the allegations about Diddy assaulting Cassie

surfaced, I had to distance myself,” Barrow explains in the documentary, referencing his condemnation of Combs following the release of disturbing videos.

A Story of Redemption

Barrow emphasizes that his story is one of integrity and resilience. “I didn’t betray my friends or snitch. I sacrificed my career, my life, and my family to uphold my integrity and humanity,” he says.

‘The Honorable Shyne’ showcases Barrow’s journey from a troubled youth in Brooklyn to a hip-hop sensation, and finally to a respected political figure. The documentary sheds light on his struggles, triumphs, and his ongoing mission to redefine his legacy.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Lee Jaffe Chronicles Life With Bob Marley and The Wailers in New Photo Book

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

When American Lee Jaffe first met Bob Marley in New York City 52 years ago, the Jamaican musician played him songs from a tape expected to be the first album by The Wailers, Marley’s band.

He remembers being blown away by the raw tracks, which were message songs driven by reggae, a rising sound out of Jamaica.

“I was in awe of the power of the music and the articulation of the social and political message. And I was struck by Bob’s humility. It was obvious that he was on a mission and ego was not going to get in the way,” Jaffe recalled.

Within a year, Jaffe had moved to Kingston to be with Marley and The Wailers, which at the time included Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston, later Bunny Wailer. He lived there for six years and captured many key moments of the group on his camera.

He revisits that sojourn in ‘Hit Me With Music: Roots Rock Reggae,’ a book released in September by Rizzoli International Publications. It is Jaffe’s second book. The first, ‘One Love: Life With Bob Marley and The Wailers,’ is another photo-strong piece released in 2004.

Jaffe, born in New York to Jewish parents, met Marley through his links to the colorful music scene in his hometown. He was in Jamaica when Island Records released ‘Catch A Fire,’ and its follow-up, ‘Burnin’ in 1973.

He also played harmonica



Lee Jaffe has released his second book, ‘Hit Me With Music: Roots Rock Reggae.’

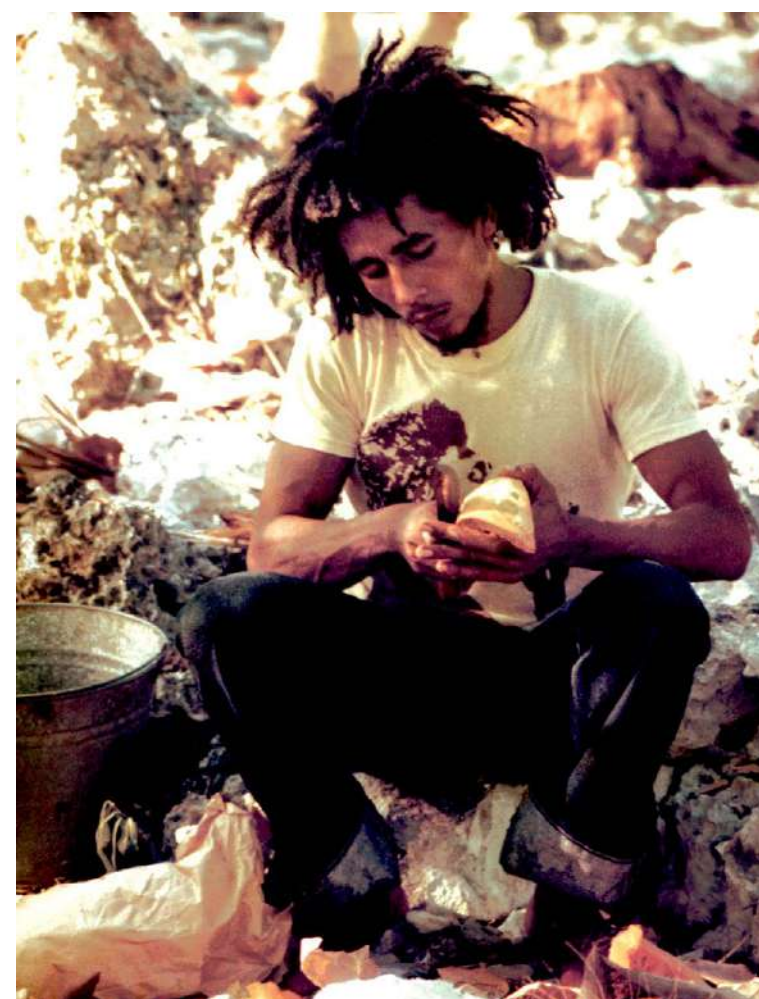


Michael Jackson, Jermaine Jackson and Alvin “Seeco” Patterson of The Wailers, at Bob Marley’s home in March 1975, is another of the photographs from ‘Hit Me With Music: Roots Rock Reggae,’ by Lee Jaffe.

on ‘Natty Dread,’ Marley’s first solo album for Island Records, which came out in November 1974. He notes that ‘Hit Me With Music’ transcends music.

“My time in Jamaica

between 1973 and ‘75 was wrought with palpable political and social tension,” he said. “The US/CIA was supporting the Jamaica Labour Party in opposition to the avowed



Bob Marley peeling an orange at circa Kingston 1974 is one of the photographs from ‘Hit Me With Music: Roots Rock Reggae,’ by Lee Jaffe.

socialist Prime Minister Michael Manley, then the head of the PNP, (People’s National Party).”

‘Hit Me With Music’ has striking photographs of Marley enjoying leisure time outside of music; members of his family including wife Rita, and mother Cedella Booker; of the One Love Peace Concert in 1978, and of The Jackson 5’s visit to Marley’s home in March, 1975.

Lee Jaffe went on to

manage Tosh after splitting with Marley, who died in May 1981 at age 36. He was responsible for Tosh, who died in September 1987 at age 42, securing a deal with Columbia Records which released his ‘Legalize It,’ and ‘Equal Rights’ albums.

The book is available as a hard copy on Amazon for \$43.32.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Jamaica Entertainers And Creatives Get Long Overdue Insurance Coverage

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Concerned at the number of Jamaican entertainers who have fallen on hard times, or died impoverished, the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport has signed an agreement with Guardian Life Limited to provide free Group Life and Personal Accident insurance coverage for members of the “creative, media and entertainment sectors.”

Known as the Jamaican Entertainers and Creatives Insurance, plan, (JECIP), the agreement took effect in November. It is open to 400 small businesses and 4,500 artists on the ministry’s National Registry of Entertainment and Creatives Industries Practitioners.

Persons up to 75 years-old are eligible, but they must be officially affiliated with the entertainment sector. Coverage terminates at 75, with an option to extend to age 99 on condition that a medical report is submitted annually after age 74.

Olivia Grange, Jamaica’s Culture, Gender, Entertainment, Culture and Sport minister, disclosed that the Ministry of Finance provided initial funding of \$345,000 for the JECIP, which will be sustained through the government’s Consolidated Fund.

“This initiative has been in

development for a number of years as I’ve always felt that it is important for government to provide social protection for a group of people that have built Brand Jamaica, that have brought Jamaica to every corner of the globe in music and entertainment and, of course, sport,” said Grange. “The Jamaica Athletes Insurance Program was launched in 2015, but it contains fewer stakeholders than those in the

entertainment and creative sectors, so it took a longer time to plan and finally implement.”

She noted that many veteran reggae artists have died in the past six years, with several of their families struggling to provide them with a proper funeral. Her ministry has helped out financially in some of these services, because she knew these artists. But Grange said implementing a comprehensive

insurance plan is a personal issue.

“Let me put it this way, between January 2020 and October 31, 2024, more than 100 entertainers and creative practitioners have passed on,” she said. “Between 2017-2019, it was another 42. What we lost, most importantly, were the collective geniuses of our pioneers... those who strummed the first Ska,

Rocksteady and Reggae beats. They are irreplaceable. These 142 creatives and entertainers that my ministry tracked and continues to track, demonstrates how important it is to institute this JECIP.”

The JECIP has received wide scale support from the entertainment industry, with some players describing it as long overdue.



Surinamese Artist Jone Capone Brings Cultural Fusion To Dancehall

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Due to the rich blend of cultures in her native Suriname, Jone Capone’s musical style is remarkably diverse. Her songs seamlessly incorporate various influences, as showcased in “Bad Chat,” released in October.

The self-produced track has a distinct dancehall vibe, a nod to her Jamaican influences. It also has flavours of Suriname, a South American, CARICOM country, once owned by The Netherlands.

Capone, who moved to South Florida as an adult, says the region’s Spanish, Haitian and West Indians remind her of home. “Both regions have deep-rooted dance cultures that serve as a vehicle for expression and celebration,” she explained. “Suriname is known for their Kaseko music, like an Indo-

Caribbean vibe called Bigi Poku which incorporates elements of Afro-Caribbean rhythms and styles.”

“Bad Chat” is an update of ‘Bang Bang,’ a song Capone wrote 10 years ago and released in 2023. She revised the lyrics and went for a slower beat to give the song a 1980s dancehall feel.

South Florida has been a stomping ground for artists from different backgrounds for many years. Whether it’s rock singer Lenny Kravitz, who has Bahamian roots; rapper Pitbull, who is from Cuba, or the Inner Circle band, who developed their easy-listening reggae sound in Jamaica.

Growing up in Suriname, Capone embraced indigenous sounds like Kaseko, but the Afrocentric songs of Earth, Wind



Get ready for in “Bad Chat,” from Jone Capone, a Surinamese artiste.

& Fire and Third World were also big on her playlist. Later, she discovered roots-reggae giants like Bob Marley, Freddie McGregor, Marcia Griffiths and Steel Pulse.

Masicka and Shenseea, two

of the hottest names in Jamaican dancehall, are among the contemporary acts Jone Capone tunes in to, as well as Stefflon Don, the British rapper/singer of Jamaican heritage.



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Celebrate The Holidays With These Ole' Time Caribbean Christmas Recipes

It's almost that magical time of year - Christmas! A season filled with joy, laughter, and the warmth of family and friends. And what better way to celebrate than with the flavours of the Caribbean? Here are five classic recipes to bring a touch of tradition and tropical flair to your holiday table this Christmas.

CARIBBEAN BLACK CAKE



Ingredients:

- 2 pounds of brown sugar
- 1 pound of butter
- 12 beaten eggs
- 1 pound of flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- 1 teaspoon of mixed spices
- ¼ pound of mixed peel
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- Red Wine (for caramel)

Method:

Begin by making a caramel. In a pot, heat about one pound of brown sugar until it starts to melt. Add at least a cup of wine and simmer until you achieve a dark, rich color.

Grease and double-line an 8-inch baking pan. Cream the remaining sugar and butter together until the mixture is smooth. You can also use an electric mixer for this step.

Gradually add the beaten eggs, one at a time, and mix them into the batter.

Stir in the prepared fruit and nuts until well combined.

Add enough caramel to achieve your desired darkness.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, and mixed spices. Add these dry ingredients gradually and fold them into the batter.

Adjust the consistency by adding a bit more wine or rum until you reach a soft, dropping consistency.

Pour the mixture into the

prepared pan and bake in a slow oven at 300 degrees F for 2 hours on the middle shelf.

After removing the cake from the oven, immediately drizzle some of the remaining wine or rum over it. Repeat this step 3 or 4 times.

Allow the cake to cool to room temperature.

To preserve the cake year-round, brush it with rum.

TRINIDAD PASTELLES



Ingredients

- 1 cup pitted olives (chopped)
- 2 spring onions (scallions, green onions) chopped
- 3 garlic cloves (chopped)
- 1 green chilli
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves or dried
- 1 tbsp capers chopped
- 1 tsp fresh rosemary chopped
- 2 shallots (chopped)
- 600g lean minced lamb
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tbsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

For Cornmeal Case:

- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 cups hot water
- 2 cups fine cornmeal

Method

Place a large pan over a medium to high heat. Add 1 tbsp vegetable oil to the pan and after one minute add the shallots and chopped garlic and sauté for a few mins.

Add the minced lamb to the pan and stir to mix thoroughly and cook till there is no longer any pink meat visible.

Add the chilli, capers, olives, raisins, thyme, spring onions,

tomato paste, salt, black pepper, Worcestershire sauce, chopped rosemary and paprika. Allow to cook for a further minute mixing thoroughly to combine and then remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Cut 12 pieces of baking foil into medium squares or 12 pieces of greaseproof paper and foil paper.

For Cornmeal Case:

In a large mixing bowl; add hot water, salt and oil. Add the cornmeal while stirring to avoid any lumps

Using a pastry brush, lightly grease a piece of baking foil or greaseproof paper with oil.

Form a heaping tablespoon of cornmeal into a ball and place on top of the paper.

Lightly grease a piece of plastic wrap and place it over the ball and using your fingers gently press and smooth the cornmeal ball into a thin circle.

Remove the plastic wrap and fill the center with 2 tbsps of the meat mixture and fold the cornmeal over gently to seal on all sides.

Fold the paper around the pastelle to seal and steam over hot water for 20 mins until done and serve hot.

If using greaseproof paper, wrap a second time using foil paper before steaming.

Servings: 12

Ready in: 65 Minutes

HAITIAN KREMAS



Ingredients

- 2 cans of sweetened condensed milk (14oz.)
- 1 can of evaporated milk (12 oz.)
- 1 tsp of lemon zest
- 1 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 tsp of cinnamon
- 1 tsp of almond extract
- 2 tsp of vanilla extract

- 1/2 cup of white rum then add to taste
- 1/2 can cream of coconut (15 oz)

Method

In a large bowl or pitcher, add the sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, cream of coconut, rum, cinnamon, nutmeg, almond, and vanilla.

Stir well.

Pour into glass bottles and chill in refrigerator.

Serve chilled. Enjoy!

JAMAICAN SORRELL



Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups dried sorrel
- 3 oz fresh ginger, grated
- 5 pimento berries
- 6 cups water
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ¾ cup white rum
- Peel of 1 orange
- 2 cinnamon sticks

Method

In a deep pot bring two gals of water to a boil; add sorrel and fresh grated ginger.

Add 12 whole pimento and three sticks of Cinnamon mixture.

Remove from the fire and allow the mixture to steep overnight. Strain the sorrel liquid into a pitcher, discarding the solids except pimento and cinnamon sticks, add rum and sweeten to taste.

Pour mixture in bottles and refrigerate.

Serve with ice.

GUYANESE PEPPER POT

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. of beef
- 1-pound cow heel or cow foot, bought at the Spanish store in the US
- 1/2 lb. pig's tail that can be bought at a Korean store in the



US, UK or Canada (optional)

- 1 cup cassareep from a bottle that can be bought at a West Indian store in the US, UK or Canada.
- 4-5 cinnamon sticks, whole
- 6-8 cloves
- 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper
- 1-ounce sugar
- 2 stalks basil
- 1 bunch fine fresh thyme
- 1 large chopped onion
- 3 chopped garlic cloves
- Salt to taste
- 16 cups water

Instructions

Soak pig tails in water to get off salt.

Wash cow heel with vinegar and rum.

Cut beef into chunks and wash with vinegar and rum. Season meat with fine leaf thyme.

Add pig tails and cow heel into a pressure cooker and let it run off all water.

Then add water to cover meat and pressure until tender, around 30 minutes.

Add beef to another pot and let it run off all water.

Remove pressure and turn on tap until steam release.

Open and ensure cow heel and pig tails are half tender then remove from water and add in beef.

Add cassareep and ensure all of the meat are coated. Add all other ingredients and boil for about one hour on medium heat until meat is tender.

Adjust flavor with salt and sugar.

Pepperpot is popularly served with a firm bread like the Jamaican hard dough bread.

Note: This dish develops flavor when left over a period of days. If left unrefrigerated, it must be reheated to a boil every day.

Bon Appetite!

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

Can We Talk?

HEALTH NEWS



Medicare Open Enrollment Ending Soon

The open enrollment period for Medicare concludes on December 7th, but significant changes are set to take effect in 2025, promising financial relief for many beneficiaries. Here are some of the key changes coming next year:

Out-of-Pocket Prescription Costs Capped at \$2,000

Starting in 2025, Medicare Part D enrollees will no longer face the “donut hole” coverage gap. A new hard cap will limit out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs to \$2,000 annually. This change is a relief for beneficiaries with high drug expenses, who can now spread payments out monthly instead of paying upfront at the pharmacy.

While this cap applies to Part D drugs, it does not extend to Part B drugs administered in outpatient settings, such as chemotherapy treatments.

Changes To Medicare Advantage Plans, (MAPD)

Premiums for Medicare Advantage plans with drug coverage (MAPDs) are dropping on average from \$15.56 to \$13.50 per month in 2025, but deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums are rising. The average drug deductible for MAPDs will more than double, jumping from \$146.37 in 2024 to \$306.10 in 2025.

Additionally, some Medicare Advantage plans are reducing benefits like dental coverage or revising formularies, which could affect drug availability and costs. Beneficiaries are advised to carefully review their plan’s coverage changes.

Standalone Part D Plans

While premiums for standalone Part D plans are decreasing slightly nationwide, some plans are increasing costs significantly depending on location and coverage. For example, in California, premiums for the most popular

plans range from a \$1.60 decrease to a \$62.40 increase monthly. Deductibles for standalone Part D plans are also rising, with the average increasing from \$383.75 in 2024 to \$466.49 in 2025.

Expanded Mental Health Access

Starting in 2025, more mental health professionals, including addiction counsellors and family therapists, will be allowed to enrol as Medicare providers. This aims to address the shortage of available behavioural health services.

Dementia Support For Caregivers

Medicare will launch a new program in 2025, Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE), to offer services for individuals with dementia and their unpaid caregivers. This program focuses on providing resources to keep patients at home longer.

Improved Access To Biosimilar Drugs

Medicare Part D plans will allow midyear substitutions of lower-cost biosimilar drugs, increasing affordability for treatments like diabetes, arthritis, and some cancers.



Medicare Advantage Notification On Unused Benefits

Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will receive midyear letters detailing unused supplemental benefits such as dental, vision, or fitness coverage, encouraging them to utilize their plans fully.

Adjustments To Prior Authorization

Medicare Advantage plans will face new rules in 2025 requiring evaluations of how prior authorization policies impact at-risk populations. Starting in 2026, insurers must respond to prior authorization requests within seven days instead of 14.

Preparing For The Changes

Beneficiaries should review their Annual Notice of Changes, (ANOC), letter and compare plan costs and coverage using Medicare.gov. Experts recommend considering not only premiums but also deductibles, copays, and network availability to ensure optimal coverage.

For additional support, beneficiaries can consult a trusted agent or a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) representative for unbiased Medicare counselling.



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Cayman Reports Case Of Oropouche Virus

The Cayman Islands has confirmed their first imported case of Oropouche virus disease, prompting calls for increased public vigilance against vector-borne illnesses. Spread by midges and Culex mosquitoes, Oropouche virus has been reported in South America and parts of the Caribbean.

While no local transmission has been detected, multiple imported dengue cases have

also been confirmed this year. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nick Gent urged residents to take precautions, emphasizing the region’s interconnectedness.

The Mosquito Research and Control Unit assured proactive measures are in place, with local testing ensuring timely diagnosis and swift public health responses. Oropouche fever is a tropical viral infection which can infect humans. It is

transmitted by biting midges and mosquitoes, from a natural reservoir which includes sloths, non-human primates, and birds. The disease is named after the region where it was first discovered and isolated in 1955, by the Oropouche River in Trinidad and Tobago.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Carigenetics Launches Groundbreaking Prostate Cancer Genetic Study In Bermuda

CariGenetics has officially commenced enrolment for its multi-country Caribbean Prostate Cancer Genetic Study in Bermuda, marking a significant milestone in the Caribbean Genome Programme (CGP). The CGP aims to address the lack of Caribbean representation in global genomic research by generating data from 100,000 participants by 2027.

As a proof of concept, the study focuses on prostate cancer across 10 Caribbean islands, starting with Bermuda. The initiative includes three participant groups: men diagnosed with prostate cancer, those without cancer or familial history, and a newly added group of men with a family history of cancer.

Partnering with Hamilton

Medical Centre (HMC) in Bermuda, the study ensures a seamless participant experience, offering same-day PSA testing and blood draws. This research seeks to improve understanding of prostate cancer in Caribbean populations and enhance regional healthcare outcomes.

For more information, visit CariGenetics.com.



Watch For Travel Scams This Holiday Season

A shocking report from Booking.com reveals a staggering 900% increase in travel scams over the past 18 months, with artificial intelligence (AI) enabling fraudsters to create increasingly convincing schemes. In 2023 alone, travel scam victims in the U.S. lost a total of \$265,000, with nearly 25% of those impacted losing \$1,000 or more to a single scam. This alarming trend comes as searches for “last-minute holiday deals” surged by 250% in recent months, creating fertile ground for opportunistic scammers.

AI-Driven Travel Scams: What to Watch For

Fake Booking Websites: Scammers now use AI tools to

craft fake websites that mimic legitimate airline or hotel booking platforms. These sites offer deals that seem too good to be true, such as deeply discounted flights or accommodations, often accompanied by urgent language like “limited-time sale” or “only one left.” Once users enter personal and payment information, fraudsters can steal sensitive data and leave travellers stranded without valid bookings.

AI Chatbots Offering Fraudulent Deals:

AI-powered chatbots impersonating customer service representatives are increasingly used to offer fabricated travel deals on flights, hotels, and vacation packages. These bots can be highly convincing, asking

victims to pay upfront for non-existent trips or divulge sensitive information.

Phishing Emails and Texts: AI enables scammers to create sophisticated phishing emails and text messages that appear to be from legitimate travel companies. Victims are lured into providing personal or financial information via links, often under the pretext of urgent issues like cancelled flights or special discounts.

AI-Generated Reviews and Photos:

Fake reviews and AI-generated images have become a growing concern, with platforms like Tripadvisor reporting millions of flagged fake reviews. Scammers use these to create the illusion of trustworthiness for fake travel packages, complete with polished but fraudulent photos and descriptions.

False Itineraries and Deals:

AI is also being used to produce realistic-looking itineraries for fake holiday packages. Travelers are drawn in by promises of unbeatable deals, only to find that the destinations or activities they paid for don't exist.

How to Protect Yourself Verify Websites:

Look for signs of authenticity, such as secure payment options and accurate URLs. Be wary of websites with spelling errors or rushed designs.

Cross-Check Reviews:

Check reviews across multiple platforms and avoid relying solely on those found on the booking site. Pay attention to patterns, as clusters of overly positive reviews could be AI-generated.

Avoid Urgency Traps:

Scammers often push for immediate action by creating a false sense of urgency. Always take time to verify deals before committing.

Be Cautious with Communication:

Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails or texts. If something feels off, contact airlines or hotels directly through official channels to confirm any offers or issues.

Examine Photos Closely:

AI-generated images often have flaws, such as unnatural lighting or blurry details. Look closely to spot inconsistencies.

Expert Advice

Christoph C. Cemper, founder of AIPRM, explains how

to identify AI scams and what steps to take if you fall victim. “The greatest red flag is a false sense of urgency. Scammers use AI to create offers that are ‘too good to be true,’ preying on impulsive decisions.”

If you suspect a scam, he advises immediate action:

Lock down your credit card: Contact your bank and freeze affected accounts.

Report the scam: Notify local authorities or cyber-crime units. While resolution may be slow, reporting helps raise awareness.

Broader Implications

The rise of AI-enabled scams underscores the evolving landscape of cybercrime, particularly during high-travel seasons. As holiday bookings peak, experts emphasize the need for heightened vigilance.

“AI is a powerful tool for both innovation and deception. Travelers must remain cautious and informed to outsmart increasingly sophisticated fraudsters,” Cemper added. This holiday season, staying alert could be the difference between a dream vacation and a costly scam.

- *Rewritten from AIPRM*



Canada Warns About Travel To These Caribbean Destinations

The Canadian government has issued travel advisories for several Caribbean nations, urging nationals to exercise caution due to violent crimes and safety concerns. Countries listed include The Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Bahamas

Travelers to The Bahamas are warned about violent crimes linked to gang activity, particularly in Nassau, Freeport, and Grand Bahama Island. Incidents such as armed robbery, sexual assault, and home invasions have occurred, even in tourist areas and cruise ship terminals. During the holiday season, crime rates tend to rise. Canadian authorities advise tourists to:

- Stay in tourist areas
- Avoid walking alone at night
- Refrain from carrying large amounts of cash

Jamaica

Jamaica's advisory highlights violent crime, including armed robbery and murder, in urban areas such as Kingston and Montego Bay. High-risk neighborhoods, known as “hot spots,” experience gang-related activity and gun violence. Tourists are also at risk of theft and robberies. Travelers are urged to avoid affected areas and remain vigilant, especially in Kingston and Montego Bay neighborhoods such as Tivoli Gardens, Trench Town, and Norwood Gardens.

Dominican Republic

Crime in the Dominican Republic, especially in major cities, includes theft, pickpocketing, and bag-snatching. Tourists are often targeted, particularly at resorts, beaches, and airports. Canadians are advised to:

- Stay in secure accommodations
- Avoid displaying valuables

- Be cautious of hustlers and overly helpful strangers

Guyana

In Guyana, both petty and violent crime are prevalent. Foreigners are frequently targeted for pickpocketing, armed robberies, and carjackings. Visitors are urged to avoid high-crime areas in Georgetown and tourist sites such as Stabroek Market and the Botanical Gardens. Precautions include:

- Avoiding large cash transactions
- Staying in secure accommodations
- Being vigilant when entering or leaving public places

Trinidad & Tobago

Non-essential travel is advised against certain areas in Trinidad & Tobago, including Beetham Estate Gardens and Laventille, due to gang-related violence. Travelers are urged to avoid these high-crime zones.

Belize

Southside Belize City is flagged for non-essential travel due to gang violence, murders, and shootings. Travelers should avoid this area entirely.

Additional Warnings

Canada advises against all travel to Haiti due to the threat posed by kidnappings, gang violence and the potential for civil unrest throughout the country. Travelers to Cuba are also urged to exercise caution as shortages of food, medicine, and fuel persist.

Canadian authorities recommend that all travellers remain vigilant, secure their belongings, and stay informed of local conditions while visiting these destinations.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



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CHRISTMAS FEATURE



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Christmas Wonderland Among Events Bringing Festive Cheer To South Florida

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

It's the most wonderful time of the year: Christmas. And hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people are enjoying the festivities at Christmas Wonderland at Tropical Park, 7900 S.W. 40th Street in Miami, Florida.

The Christmas-themed amusement park, which took over for Santa Enchanted Forest after a 40-year stint, runs through January 5, 2025. The 275-acre urban park is playing host to Christmas Wonderland, which is filled with rides, food and merchandise booths, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, games and a zoo, just to name a few.

The event has also become a melting pot of diverse cultures in Miami-Dade celebrating the Christmas holidays despite their religious beliefs, including those from the Caribbean islands like Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba. "This is a fun place to blend with other people from different nations," said Michael Mason, who is of Jamaican descent, with his two young sons. "It's the Christmas holiday and everyone should be in the spirit. With all the fun - rides, food and other activities, this place brings people together."

The Christmas themed amusement park is so popular that hundreds and thousands turned out on opening night which reached beyond the capacity limit.

Hundreds had to be turned away recently, to the dismay of unhappy fun-seekers who brought their kids all the way from West Palm Beach.

"We drove two hours to get here... stuck in traffic for almost an hour," said one man with his two young children in tow. "My kids are heartbroken but I'll bring them back again."

There was also an issue with traffic complaints. Most motorists used the Palmetto Expressway enroute to Tropical Park but traffic was backed up for miles, as well as Bird Road and Miller Drive.

Christmas Wonderland management posted a statement on its Instagram in response to the complaints about the chaos, and disallowed comments.

"At our preview night at Christmas Wonderland at Tropical Park, we had an unprecedented demand for access to the park," the statement read. "In an abundance of caution, we made the decision to close the park when it reached capacity as the safety of our guests and staff is the top priority. Our team is committed to delivering an optimal and safe holiday experience for the community."

Nevertheless, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves at the amusement park. Groups taking selfies to post on social media and someone dressed as Grinch ready



Catch the spirit of Christmas at the Christmas Wonderland at Tropical Park, 7900 S.W. 40th Street in Miami, Florida.

to steal Christmas presents.

But this Grinch stole a woman's heart instead, buying her a gold necklace which planted a smile on her face. "I love it," she said.

Fun seekers were introduced to HoliDade, a celebration of the diversity of Miami-Dade County, residents, cultures and iconic neighborhoods including Coconut Grove, which was home to Bahamian settlers before the City of Miami incorporated in 1896.

The section was designed for people to create a trail of memories using selfies with the backdrops reflecting the diverse culture in the county, and a museum with Christmas exhibits.

"Whether you hang out at the Gingerbread Lifeguard Stand (an homage to Miami Beach) or check out the inner workings of the Toy Factoria (an ode to Hialeah), you'll surely recognize your favorite neighborhood," said Carmen Portilla, who oversees HoliDade on behalf of the county.

Sweet Street was another major attraction at Christmas Wonderland, which is a brought to life candy board game with an explosion of color, candy, cookies, and other goodies.

People were taking photos with life-sized candy canes or inside Lovers Lane.

For the kids, Toy Town was among their favorites at the amusement park. They enjoyed kid-sized rides, including the Kids Wheel, and interacted with the Elf Brigade, and played with larger-than-life toys.

Kids also wrote letters to Santa Clause and placed them in the Letters to Santa station for him to receive and grant them their Christmas wishes.

But wait.

Inside Santa's Village, Santa Claus was taking photos with kids and their parents. He received their letters from the station and told the kids he and Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer will visit their homes when they are asleep and fill their Christmas stocking with toys.

"But don't forget to leave

me cookies and milk on the table when I arrive," he could be heard telling a girl sitting on his lap.

Other Christmas events in South Florida for spectators to enjoy the holiday include:

Luminosa: A World of Enchantment

You'll see more dragons than reindeer at this lights festival, which features 40-plus scenes made of silk fabric lanterns. This season's event is fairytale-themed, complete with animatronic knights and storybooks. Luminosa's new European-style holiday village and its 30-foot Christmas tree should satisfy those looking for a little Christmas cheer - especially if they like mulled wine with that cheer. It is open 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, through Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trl., Miami. Call 305-400-7000 or visit luminosamiami.com. Tickets are \$26.90 to \$39.90 via feverup.com.

Night At The Garden

This event includes holograms and rainbow-colored pathways which are a Miami holiday season tradition. Night At The Garden is from 6 to 10:30 p.m. on most evenings through Sunday, January 12th, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables. Call 305-667-1651 or log on to thenightgarden.com. Tickets cost \$20.80 to \$36.80.

Winter Festival

It's the fifth annual Winter Festival holiday event at Berry Farm, which will be transformed into a holiday festival with hayrides and Christmas tree lighting each night.

On select days, the festival will stay open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 9 a.m. from 10 p.m., Fridays through Sundays, from Friday, November 22nd, through Sunday, January 5th, at the Berry Farm, 13720 SW 216th St., in Miami. Call 305-560-

0531 or visittheberryfarm.com. Tickets cost \$13 to \$17.

Zoo Lights

About a thousand holiday lights will be on display at Zoo Miami. Theme nights include Ugly Sweater Night and Holiday Pajamas Night. Zoo Lights will shine from 6:30 to 10 p.m. through Monday, December 30th, at Zoo Miami, 12400 SW 152nd St., Miami. Call 305-251-0400 or log on to zoomiami.org. Tickets cost \$17.95 to \$26.59.

The World Of Nutcracker

The event showcases the talents of actors' reenactment of the Christmas story about a girl named Clara who receives a nutcracker doll as a gift.

The show runs through January 3rd, at Downtown Doral, 5275 Paseo Blvd., Doral. Call 305-592-0681 or log on to downtowndoral.com. Tickets cost \$18 to \$60.

Delray Beach Christmas Tree

It's an annual holiday tradition for the display of the 100-foot Christmas tree towering over Delray Beach's holiday village. The tree has an aluminum frame and a hollow center you can walk through.

Other holiday village activities include a carousel, skating rink, and mini golf. Catch it through Sunday, December 29th, at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Call 561-243-7250 or log on to 100footchristmastree.com. Admission is free but the carousel, skating rink, and mini golf experiences cost \$6 each.

Miami Beach Festival Of Lights

The Festival of Lights features a full live orchestra. It will be held from 6-7:30, and 9 p.m. Friday, December 13th, through Sunday, December 15th, and Friday, December 20th, through Sunday, December 22nd, at the Betsy Hotel, 1440 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach. Log on to miamimusicfestival.com. Admission is free.

Winterfest Boat Parade

The 12-mile boat parade is expected to attract a million people like in previous years in Fort Lauderdale. The event features private boats, showboats, and mega yachts decorated with Christmas lights.

Hallmark Channel actor Jack Wagner and the Florida Panthers' mascots will serve as this year's grand marshals. It is set for 6:30 p.m., Saturday, December 14th, from the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-767-0686 or see winterfestparade.com for more. Admission is free. Tickets for the parade viewing area cost \$35 to \$40.



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SPORTS NEWS

CARICOM Leaders Strategize To Revive West Indies Cricket

Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), leaders are actively exploring strategies to rejuvenate West Indies cricket, a once-dominant force in the global game. This critical conversation took place during the 21st Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee, (PMSC), meeting on cricket on November 22nd, chaired by Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley at the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen.

The meeting followed a high-level engagement with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and saw Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne emerging as a leading voice advocating for transformation in the sport. Browne emphasized the economic and cultural significance of cricket, describing it as a "billion-dollar business" and underscoring the urgent need to reclaim the West Indies' cricketing legacy.

"We need a transformational approach to bring about the resurgence of West Indies cricket," Browne said, proposing several initiatives, including integrating cricket education

into school curriculums. He supported the creation of textbooks, instructional videos, and diagnostic studies to enhance player development and preserve the region's cricketing heritage. Additionally, Browne highlighted the importance of equipping players with essential soft skills to succeed on and off the field.

The meeting reviewed outcomes from the CARICOM regional cricket conference held in April 2024, discussed funding proposals from Cage International, and examined updates on upcoming events such as the T20 World Cup and Caribbean Premier League, (CPL). Ongoing collaboration with Cricket West Indies was also a key focus.

CARICOM leaders remain committed to reviving West Indies cricket, recognizing its potential not just as a sport but as a vital contributor to regional pride and economic growth.

- *Rewritten from Loop Caribbean*



Reggae Boyz Magee and Williams Help Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC Secure Maiden USL Championship Title

Reggae Boyz stars Tyreek Magee and Devon "Speedy" Williams played pivotal roles as Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC celebrated their 10th anniversary in style, capturing their first-ever USL Championship title with a commanding 3-0 win over Rhode Island FC. The historic victory unfolded before a sellout crowd of 8,023 at Weidner Field recently.

Williams showcased his experience by playing the full 90 minutes, while Magee contributed as a second-half substitute. The Switchbacks established dominance early, with Juan Tejada opening the scoring in the 22nd minute and later being named Championship Final MVP.

Their lead doubled three minutes before halftime when Jairo Henriquez capitalized on sustained pressure to slot in the second goal. Haitian international Ronaldo Damas sealed the triumph in the 53rd minute, ensuring the Switchbacks ended their 10th anniversary season with glory and an unbeaten postseason home record since the stadium's opening in 2021.



The Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC celebrated their 10th anniversary in style. (Colorado Springs Switchback FC image)

Magee and Williams were instrumental to the Switchbacks' success throughout the season. Magee, 25, netted three goals and provided one assist in 18 appearances, while the veteran Williams, 32, tallied five assists in 36 games. This championship marks Williams' fourth USL title, having previously won with New York Red Bulls II in 2015-16 and back-to-back championships with Louisville City FC in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

On the international stage, Williams has earned 35 caps for the Reggae Boyz, his most

recent appearance coming last December in a friendly against Guatemala. Magee, meanwhile, has been capped 13 times, most recently featuring in the Concacaf Nations League Quarterfinals against the USA last week.

The Switchbacks' first USL title is a testament to their growth and resilience, with Magee and Williams playing an integral role in their historic campaign.



Four-Time Olympic Gold Medalist Sprinter's Inaugural Grand Slam Track Competition Also Heading To Jamaica

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Retired American Olympic sprinter, Michael Johnson, knows talent when he sees it. Johnson won four Olympic Gold Medals and eight World Championships Gold Medals and once earned the distinction as the world's fastest man.

But recruiting and training sprinters to compete in international competition has been difficult for Johnson due to the lack of interest in track and field.

So, Johnson, 57, decided to launch Grand Slam Track, an international competition in hopes of piquing the interest of aspiring track and field athletes, including in Caribbean nations.

Johnson was in Miami on November 12th at the Blue Collar Miami to unveil his inaugural 2025 tour, which includes Miramar, Kingston, Jamaica and other stops like Los Angeles, LA, which is the home of the 2028 Summer Olympics and Philadelphia.

Johnson said the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar will be the site for the second event on the tour on May 2nd-4th, and Kingston, Jamaica will host the opening Grand Slam Track competition April 4-6th.

"South Florida knows how to host big events, and that's exactly what we're bringing with the Grand Slam Track,"

Johnson said of his new league and will perform commissioner duties as well. "The region has a real passion for sports, and I'm confident the energy here will make it a memorable experience for both racers and the fans. "We're building something special and Miami is going to be a huge part of that."

Johnson said Grand Slam Track has, so far, secured an estimated \$30 million in financial commitments from investors and strategic partners to help launch the league.

Johnson said the roster of runners include track and field stars Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Masai Russell, Melissa Jefferson, Quincy Hall, Fred Kerley, Kenny Bednarek, Cole Hocker, Yared Nuguse, Grant Fisher, Josh Kerr and others.

Johnson said more will be added to the roster until it reaches 48 athletes.

The current roster was selected by Johnson and his Grand Slam Track Racing Committee based on their performances for fastest times, fierce rivalries and thrilling competitive racing. The runners are under contracts for base compensation for competing, eligible for prize money, inclusion in the league collective, group licensing, new revenue opportunities, access to world class athlete support services throughout the season



Retired Olympic sprinter Michael Johnson, I., and prominent SEIU organizer Harris Harrigan was in Miami recently to unveil the Grand Slam Track, an international competition set for next April in Jamaica and in Miramar in May. (Contributed image)

and additional marketing and branding support.

Johnson said racers and challengers will be assigned to compete in one of the following categories, and will race in two events during each Slam: short sprints (100m/200m), short hurdles (100H or 110H/100m), long sprints (200m/400m), long

hurdles (400H/400m), short distance (800m/1500m), or long distance (3000m/5000m). All competitors' final placement score will be determined by their combined finishing order between the two races. In the event of a tie across the two events, it will be the athlete who had the quickest combined time across the two

aces who will be deemed the winner.

The winner of each Slam group will take home \$100,000 in prize money, and the 8th place competitor will earn \$10,000. Grand Slam Track will have a total of \$12.6m of prize money that will be awarded across the slams each year in addition to the base compensation and appearance fees paid to racers.

Jamaican roots Miramar Mayor, Wayne Messam, who played wide receiver at Florida State University and ran track, said his city is thrilled to have been selected as one of the host cities for the inaugural season for Grand Slam Track.

"This event will not only showcase our city's state-of-the-art facilities but also provide an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship," he said.

However, Johnson's initiative experienced a setback when the United Kingdom rejected hosting the Grand Slam Track tour due to financial issues.

This after the UKA failed to draw record crowds at the London Stadium in recent time, losing millions of dollars and didn't want to take the risk for Grand Slam Track, according to The Guardian.

"Three days of just track athletics is a lot of tickets to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

SPORTS NEWS



West Indies Cricket Legend Launches Inspiring Autobiography

West Indies and Guyanese cricket legend, Alvin Kallicharran, has officially unveiled his autobiography. The 75-year-old former batting inspiration has released 'Colour Blind,' a compelling look at his journey in cricket and the role the sport played in bridging racial divides.

Launched at the Oasis Cafe in Georgetown, Guyana recently, the book highlights Kallicharran's personal experiences as a professional cricketer and serves as a guide

for aspiring young players.

Kallicharran, who earned the title of Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1983, achieved over 20,000 runs in his illustrious nine-year career and shared at the event that cricket opened countless doors for him, inspiring his desire to give back to the sport and to his homeland, Guyana.

Reflecting on his humble beginnings, Kallicharran spoke of the values of "hard work, perseverance, hunger, and passion" that carried him

from Port Mourant, Berbice to international fame. He also credited iconic figures like Basil Butcher, Lance Gibbs, Rohan Kanhai, and Sir Gary Sobers as mentors who guided his path.

"The game has been so good to me, from the village to the international world. Hard work, perseverance, hunger, passion and the desire to play this sport," he said. "I believe it's my time to give back to Guyana and Berbice, because without patience you achieve mediocrity."



West Indies and Guyana cricket legend Alvin Kallicharran (second left) during the launch of his autobiography at the Oasis Cafe in Guyana recently.

Jamaica Defeats England In Inaugural Vitality Netball Horizon Series

Jamaica recently emerged victorious in the deciding match of the inaugural Vitality Netball Horizon Series, defeating England 61-53 to clinch the series 2-1 and claim the championship title.

The closely contested series began with a thrilling draw in the opening game, followed by England's 55-47 win in Manchester during the second match. However, Jamaica bounced back with a nail-biting 50-49 victory in Kingston, setting the stage for a dramatic finale.

England started strong in the decisive match, taking a four-goal lead after the first quarter with a 15-11 scoreline. Jamaica, however, rallied to level the game and surged ahead just before halftime, holding a 28-26 advantage.

The second half saw both teams battling fiercely, with England staying within striking distance at 42-39 entering the final quarter. But Jamaica turned up the intensity in the closing stages, dominating the fourth quarter to build an eight-goal

cushion before sealing the match 61-53.

Romelda Aiken-George was the standout performer for Jamaica, netting an impressive 40 goals from 43 attempts. Shanice Beckford provided strong support with 21 goals from 25 attempts.

For England, Olivia Tchine delivered a stellar performance, scoring 42 goals from 47 attempts, while Lois Pearson added 11 from 13 attempts.

- CMC



Kallicharran, who averaged 44.43 in 66 Test matches, including 12 hundreds and 21 half-centuries, spoke of how he became involved in cricket.

"The life journey, mixing of races, the journey started with Basil Butcher giving me my first cricket bat. Lance Gibbs was one of my greatest mentors, Rohan Kanhai and Sir Gary Sobers are a big part of my life and we're all different colors. Going to England playing cricket and making money off the white man, how can I turn

back and say it prejudice, so it's about bringing oneness to us as a people," said Kallicharran.

The event also featured the book's co-author, Tony McWatt, and remarks from Dr. Ritesh Tularam on behalf of Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, underscoring Colour Blind as both a memoir and a call for unity through sports.

- NewsAmericasNow.com





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Four-Time Olympic Gold Medalist Sprinter's Inaugural Grand Slam Track Competition Also Heading To Jamaica

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

sell in the London Stadium and the cost base comes pretty high there. They did approach us and we had a really good discussion with them," said UKA's chief executive, Jack Buckner.

Buckner said the Diamond League wiped off an estimated \$1 million for UKA in 2022 but the 2023 World Indoor Tour was another financial blow which only generated about \$632,942 for the event.

Nevertheless, Johnson will

proceed with the tour. Johnson, a Dallas native, is recognized as one of the most prolific sprinters in international track and field history. Besides winning four Olympic gold medals and eight World Championships, he held world and Olympic records in both the 200m and 400m races.

At the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Johnson became the first and only male athlete to win the Gold medal in both the 200m and 400m at the same Olympics. Since retiring from active

competition, Johnson has become a serial entrepreneur and investor, as well as highly sought after performance mindset speaker and an award-winning television commentator.

Johnson has been a pundit for the BBC's coverage of every Olympics Games since Athens 2004, and remains a key voice on, and advocate for the sport. Johnson was inducted into the United States Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2004.



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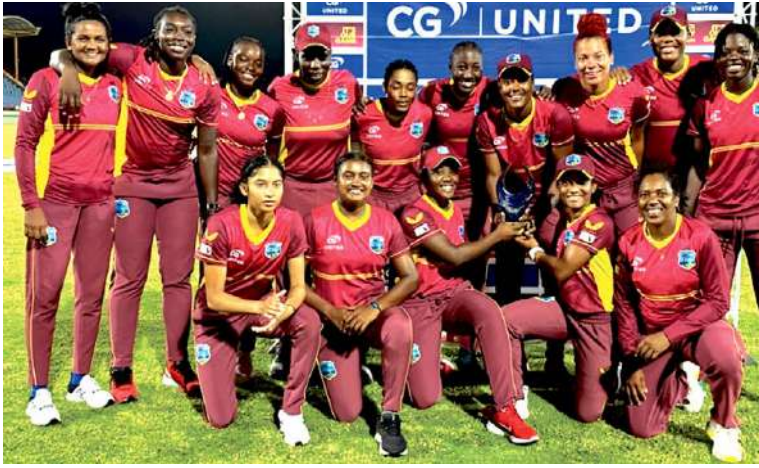




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West Indies Women's Cricket Squad For India Tour



The West Indies women's team are heading to India for 6 matches this month.

Cricket West Indies, (CWI) has announced the West Indies Women's squad for their upcoming multi-format tour of India in December 2024. The team will compete in three T20 Internationals, (T20Is) and three One-Day Internationals, (ODIs), with the ODI matches contributing vital points toward the ICC Women's Championship.

The tour begins with the T20I series at the Dr. DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on December 15th, followed by the ODI series starting December 22nd at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara. Currently ranked sixth in both T20Is and ODIs, the West Indies Women will face a strong challenge from India, ranked third in both formats.

Captain Hayley Matthews

leads the squad as they look to build on their semi-final performance in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup earlier this year. However, Stafanie Taylor remains unavailable due to injury. India, fresh off a 2-1 ODI series win against reigning T20 World Cup champions New Zealand, promises to be a formidable opponent.

Head Coach Shane Deitz expressed optimism about the tour, emphasizing the importance of sustaining momentum from the T20 World Cup and highlighting the exposure Indian conditions offer for franchise opportunities. "This series is a chance to elevate our performance while showcasing our players to Indian IPL teams," said Deitz.

The squad will arrive

in India for a 10-day acclimatization camp before the series kicks off.

West Indies Women's Squad:

- Hayley Matthews (Captain)
- Shemaine Campbelle (Vice-Captain)
- Aaliyah Alleyne
- Shamikia Connell
- Nerissa Crafton
- Deandra Dottin
- Afy Fletcher
- Shabika Gajnabi
- Chinelle Henry
- Zaida James
- Qiana Joseph
- Mandy Mangru
- Ashmini Munisar
- Karishma Ramharack
- Rashada Williams

Tour Schedule:

T20Is

- 1st T20I: December 15, 2024, DY Patil Stadium, Mumbai
- 2nd T20I: December 17, 2024, DY Patil Stadium, Mumbai
- 3rd T20I: December 19, 2024, DY Patil Stadium, Mumbai

ODIs

- 1st ODI: December 22, 2024, Reliance Stadium, Vadodara
- 2nd ODI: December 24, 2024, Reliance Stadium, Vadodara
- 3rd ODI: December 27, 2024, Reliance Stadium, Vadodara

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaican International Bunny Shaw Nominated For 2024 Women's Player Of The Year Award



Jamaican international Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw

Top Jamaican international Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw is among 16 players nominated for the Women's Player of the Year award at the 2024 FIFA Best Awards.

Nominees have been selected based on their performances between August 21, 2023, and August 10, 2024.

During that period, the 27-year-old Manchester City forward has been spectacular, having scored three hat-tricks for her club and becoming just the second non-European player to win the Golden Boot in the Women's Super League (WSL).

Shaw's 21 league goals for City were also the joint third highest in a single WSL campaign. She also copped several awards including the PFA Women's Player of the Year, the

2023-2024 WSL Player of the Season and was also named the Football Writers' Association Women's Footballer of the Year for the 2023-2024 season.

Her Manchester City teammate Lauren Hemp is also among the nominees for the prestigious award. Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati, who took home the award in 2023, is also among the nominees again.

Voting for the ninth annual awards is open on Fifa.com and closes on December 10th. The winner will be announced during an awards ceremony in January 2025.

- CMC



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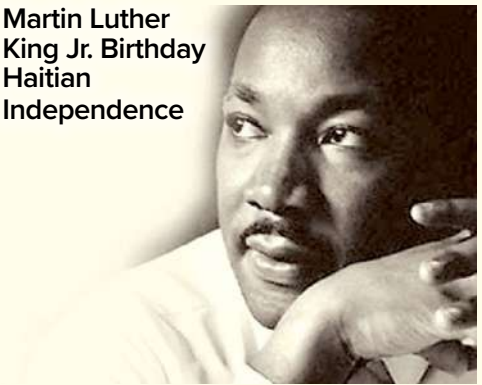
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- Spring Health
- Guyana Independence



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- Haitian Heritage Month
- Summer Camp Guide
- Visit South Florida



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- Caribbean Heritage Month



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- Visit Miami



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