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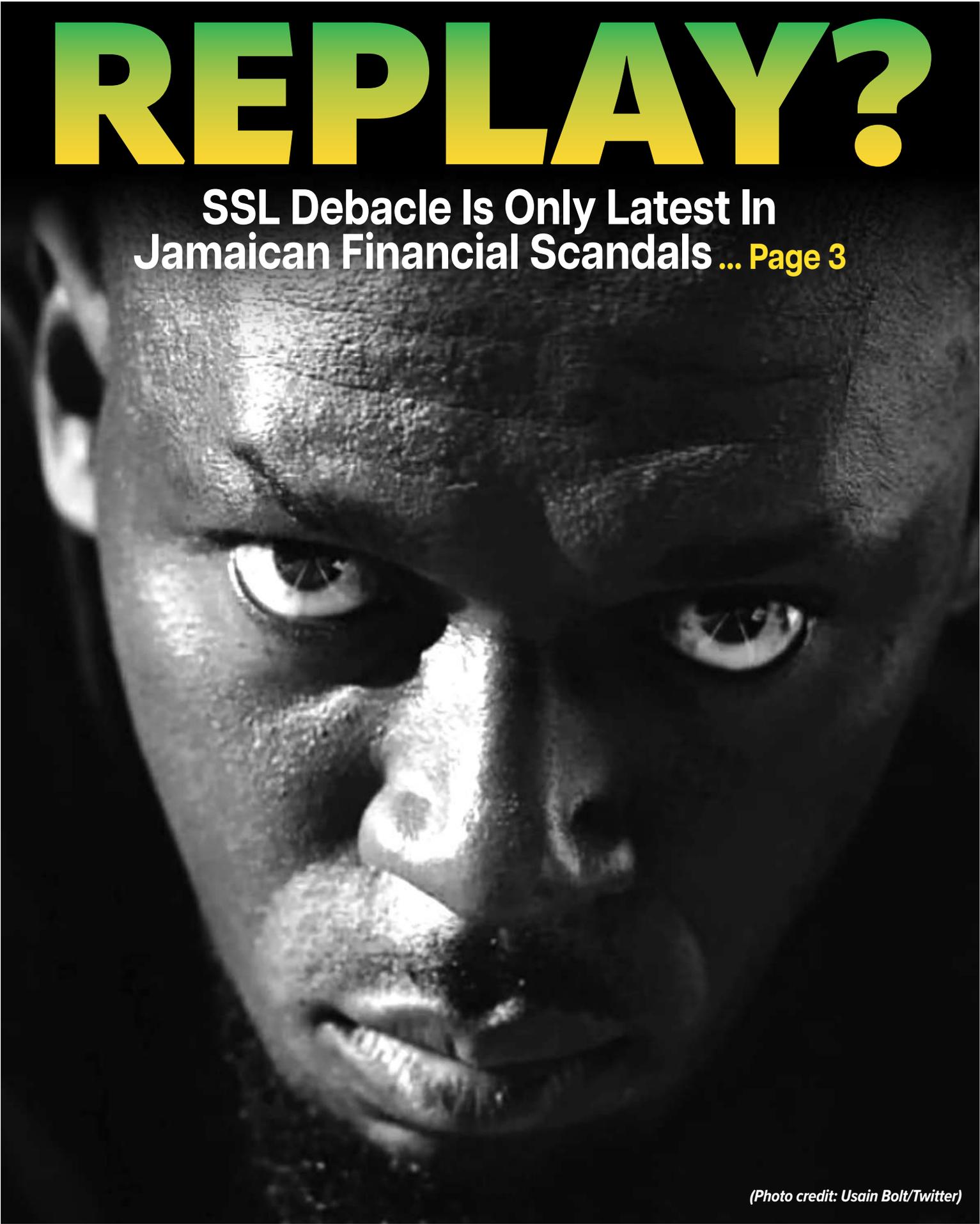
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(Credit: Getty Images)



Princess Shuri Tours Homeland ... Page 14
(Credit: Guyana DPI)



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

REGION

The Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), says it is deeply concerned that the contrasting incidents involving the Haitian national Police indicate the severity of the challenges that the police face as well as further breakdown in security in Haiti.

In a statement, the 15-member regional body said that it strongly condemns the killing of police officers and expressed condolences to the families of the officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

“The anger and dismay of the police at the gruesome killings of their colleagues, 78 killed since July 2021 and 14 to date this January, are shared by all,” the statement said in part. “However, abandoning the role of the security forces to protect every citizen and maintain public order further destabilizes the country. The protest actions by members of the police service against the Prime Minister cannot be condoned.”

“CARICOM urges the members of the Haitian National Police to safeguard peace and order and refrain from actions which could only serve to foster even greater damage to the country and its people,” the regional body added.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua & Barbuda Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has sworn in all members of the new Parliament as the Antigua Labour Party was returned to power in recent general elections there.

The country's new Senate, meanwhile, has seen a reduction



Her Excellency Marcella Liburd, JP, I., was sworn in as the first female Governor-General of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis on February 1, 2023. (SKN GIS image)

in female representation coming out of what was its largest number of female senators ever with nine of its seventeen members being women during the 2018-2022 period. The ABLP won the general election on January 18th by a slim 9-8 margin, down from the comfortable 15-2 majority it had enjoyed in the last Parliament. The UPP won six of seats with two independents winning seats in the 17-member Parliament.

JAMAICA

The Jamaica government is increasing the national budget to J\$998.2 billion (One Jamaica dollar=US\$0.008 cents) after

Finance Minister Dr. Nigel Clarke tabled the J\$24.5 billion third supplementary estimates of Expenditure in Parliament.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke said the additional expenditure is primarily to facilitate payments under the public-sector compensation restructuring exercise, which accounts for J\$23.7 billion of the supplementary amounts. He told legislators that this additional expenditure is being financed by projected increases in revenue and that the provision for wages and salaries in the third supplementary estimates represents what Jamaica can now

afford.

BAHAMAS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas has airlifted all seven of its Bahamian diplomats, including the spouse of the charge d'Affaires, out of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The diplomats were taken to the Dominican Republic. The evacuation comes as the Prime Minister ordered all Bahamian diplomatic personnel in Haiti to immediately leave the country as soon as security conditions permitted, citing the rapidly devolving and unstable conditions in the wake of reported violent gang killings of police officers and protests in the French speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member state.

Over the past few days outraged rebel police officers “paralyzed” Port-au-Prince in protest of a slew of killings of police officers by Haitian gangs. More than a hundred protesters recently blocked roads shot guns into the air and broke through gates in the capital's airport and Prime Minister Ariel Henry's house. According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, once conditions improve, a team from The Bahamas will be sent back into Haiti without further announcement.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Police in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have launched an investigation into the death of a 63-year-old American woman, who died when the vehicle she was driving went over an embankment in the northern Grenadine Island of Bequia. They said Elizabeth Watt-Sampson, was the sole occupant of the vehicle that

ended up in the sea. The vehicle ended up in the sea at the bottom of an embankment, claiming the life of Eli Watt-Sampson. Watt-Sampson is the second United States national to die while visiting St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the last few months.

SURINAME

The Public Prosecution Service in Suriname is demanding that former president and military strongman, Desi Bouterse, be jailed for 20 years for complicity in the murder of 15 men on December 8, 1982.

Acting Attorney General, Carmen Rasam, said that Bouterse must be held responsible for the murders and that enough evidence had been provided during the trial. Bouterse had been sentenced to 20 years in jail for his involvement in the December 1982 murders of 15 political opponents by his then military government. In August 2021, the Court Martial of Suriname upheld the 2019 military court ruling of a 20-year-jail term on Bouterse following a trial that had been going on for several years.

GUYANA

Prominent Guyanese-born Caribbean intellectual, Gordon Rohlehr, has died at age 80. He was an authority on West Indian literature and the calypso and taught at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus. Rohlehr was awarded the Chaconia Medal, Silver the Spheres of Literature, Culture, History and Education at the National Awards 2022 by the Trinidad and Tobago government.

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Former St. Kitts-Nevis government minister, Marcella Liburd, has made history after being sworn in as the Federation's first female Governor General. Liburd has served the twin-island Federation in various capacities, as a teacher, lawyer, legislator, r, Speaker of the National Assembly and as a government minister.

The government statement said that Liburd “has piloted several legislations over the years including the Domestic Violence Act and Equal Pay Act. In 2011, Ms. Liburd was nominated among prominent women for her contributions to the development of gender equality.” In 2013, Liburd became the first female to be elected as chairperson of the ruling St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party in its then 81-year history.

- Compiled from CMC



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SSL Debacle Is Only Latest In Jamaican Financial Scandals



Sprint legend Usain Bolt speaking at the Gibson McCook Relays sponsors' luncheon at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, touched briefly on his loss. (Photo: Joseph Wellington/Jamaica Observer)

REPORTED BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
 Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Shock and outrage continue to follow what has now become known as 'The SSL Scandal,' even as legendary eight-time Olympic champion Jamaican Olympian, Usain Bolt, the man who has been fleeced of US 12.7 million, says "no matter what's going on now, Jamaica is my country and that will never change."

But while Bolt struggles to come to grips with the mega loss with suffered at the hands of Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL), a Kingston-based financial institution, and the country's leadership tries to deliver justice and find answers as to why the institution was allowed to keep running, the scandal is reminiscent of many that have occurred recently and in past years.

The SSL saga took place at the same time a wealth manager at the privately-owned National Commercial Bank was arrested and charged for a similar offence. Khadene Thomas, 35, was charged with multiple counts of fraud for removing US\$30,000 or roughly J\$5 million from a customer's account between July and October last year.

She reportedly forged the signature of the customer on a debit instrument after which she debited his account and transferred funds to several accounts, including hers. She was arrested and charged recently and the bank is currently undertaking an audit and investigators believe the amount of the alleged fraud could increase at the end of the exercise.

PAST SCAMS

In the past 15 years, Jamaicans have lost millions of dollars to Ponzi schemes operated by Carlos Hill and David Smith. Hill's Cash Plus scheme collapsed in 2008 with 40,000 investors losing over J\$10 billion. Hill was freed of fraud charges in 2017 after only one person who provided a statement showed up to testify and the prosecution lacked evidence against him.

Smith's Olint scheme robbed thousands of investors in Jamaica, the US and Turks and Caicos Islands of over \$220 million in a Ponzi scheme. Smith has been

released from the Grand Turk prison in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), but his lawyer, Oliver Smith, says he is not out of the woods as extradition to the USA still hangs over his head.

Smith, who was incarcerated for more than 10 years, was released in 2020. In 2010, Smith pleaded guilty to 18 counts of money laundering, four counts of wire fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

He first served six years and a half year behind bars and was released for good behavior but returned to prison for an additional four years for money laundering, for which he was sentenced in the United States. The US lost its extradition case but is still hoping to convict Smith on wire fraud.

CARIBBEAN

The SSL scandal comes as a new Global Financial Integrity report on the Caribbean, says

the region has seen an uptick in financial crimes, including fraud schemes, in recent years. Financial fraud has a widespread footprint across the region, involving hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars in illicit proceeds each year, impacting the economic security of countries and the region as a whole, and generating a certain level of associated violence, the report said. In Jamaica alone, experts assessed the annual value of fraud proceeds at up to US\$800

million.

The report, 'Financial Fraud in the Caribbean,' said "the most common fraud types in the Caribbean include advance fee frauds, specifically lottery/prize scams, online shopping scams, and romance scams, as well pyramid and Ponzi schemes."

"Pyramid schemes in the region frequently take advantage of citizens' comfort and familiarity with 'sou-sous,' a legitimate, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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NEWS



Caribbean American Legislators Outraged Over Police Killing Of Unarmed Memphis Man

Caribbean American legislators have expressed profound outrage over the Jan. 7th police killing of Tyre Nichols, 29, an unarmed Blackman in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Shelby County District Attorney in Tennessee has charged five Black Memphis Police Department officers with second-degree murder, aggravated assault and kidnapping, and official misconduct and oppression.

“Tyre Nichols should be alive today. Time and time again, Black Americans have been forced to confront the senseless violence and deaths of Black men at the hands of law enforcement,” Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told the Caribbean Media Corporation, (CMC). “My heart and condolences go out to Tyre Nichols’ family and friends as we share in grief and mourn his



Protesters rally against the fatal police assault of Tyre Nichols, outside of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit, Michigan, on January 27, 2023. (Photo by JEFF KOWALSKY/AFP via Getty Images)

abuse, and death of unarmed Black and Brown people,” added Clarke, first vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, said: “I can’t bring myself to watch the video of Tyre Nichols’ murder, just as I still can’t view the deaths of George Floyd, of Ahmaud Arbery.”

“I know what it shows — a system that values preserving and

asserting power over Black lives; a pain that emanates from this incident and across the screens and the souls of Black people across America,” he told CMC. We are not okay. I pray for Tyre Nichols’ family, and for all who carry the burden of knowledge that this will happen again and again — that not only is public safety not entirely dependent on law enforcement but is threatened by it.”

New York City Council Member Crystal Hudson, whose grandmother hailed from Jamaica, said: “Here we are, once again, at a moment with which we’re all too familiar: the vicious murder of an unarmed Black person by cops.”

“This time, his name was Tyre Nichols. This time, it was in Memphis, Tennessee,” said the representative for the 35th

Council District in the heart of the Caribbean community in Brooklyn. “This time, and every time, chiefs of police are calling for calm because responsibility and accountability don’t apply to them; because, to them, the hurt, anger and sadness of our communities is something they can brush off with tear gas and riot gear, kettling and pepper spray; because, reforming the police is an impossible task when, since their inception, they have been a force defined, applauded, and encouraged by their use of violence against Black people, Brown people, and poor people.”

- Edited from CMC.



SSL Debacle Is Only Latest In Jamaican Financial Scandals

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) informal community savings practice.”

The method of contact between victim and fraudster is oftentimes dependent on the type of fraud being committed, the sophistication of the schemes and the type of victims involved, the report added. The primary channels used to move the proceeds of fraud are cash smuggling, money service businesses, bank transfers, trade-based money laundering, and online money transfer platforms, according to interviews with subject matter experts.

SSL

The board and management of the scandal-hit brokerage firm are denying a claim that they sought to dispose of assets amid an investigation into a multimillion-dollar fraud of accounts, including one held by Bolt.

In a statement dated January 30, 2023, the board and management of the company said they intended to facilitate law enforcement and other professional investigators conducting the probe without making public comment. The statement also outlined a timeline of events, including a claim that its ex-employee visited Bolt’s office seeking help from the sprint legend.

What’s more, according to the statement, no current board members or managers were aware that Bolt had an account because, the account was not held in his name; and the account did not from 2018, have balances which would have flagged it as a high-value account.

SSL said it has become necessary to set the record straight in respect of some “damaging and widely repeated inaccuracies”, which suggest that directors and management sought to dispose of assets to frustrate efforts by authorities to take control of same.

“This is simply untrue,” SSL directors said in a statement obtained from an attorney who was asked to disseminate it to the media.

Jean-Ann Panton, an employee of the SSL whose home was searched by the police, admitted

in a sworn affidavit that she had removed money from nearly 40 accounts there for the past 10 years. Although her Kingston home was searched by the police, Panton had not been charged with any crime at press time.

FSC

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) had, in October 2013, issued directions to SSL to stop conducting all aspects of its securities business unless the company received approval from the regulator, a letter seen by the Jamaica Observer has shown.

The letter, signed by then FSC Executive Director Janice Holness, was addressed to Mark Croskery who, at the time, was the firm’s president and CEO.

GOVERNMENT

Jamaica’s finance minister, Nigel Clarke, has requested the help of the FBI in the case and vowed “no stone will be left unturned” in finding the perpetrators behind the plundering of the accounts of 40 people, including Bolt.

“The anger and unease we all feel have been magnified by the long duration -- 13 years -- over which the fraud was allegedly perpetrated, and the fact that the [suspects] seemed to have deliberately and heartlessly targeted elderly persons, as well as our much loved and respected national icon, Usain Bolt,” Clarke said.

BOLT

The SSL/Bolt fiasco has been a hot topic in political and corporate circles in Jamaica as well as bars and restaurants. Some persons blame the government, others believe he is a victim of the high level of criminality in Jamaica’s financial institutions.

The pillaging of Bolt’s coffers has angered Jamaicans, who reveled in his remarkable success at three Olympic Games and World Championships which saw him winning multiple gold medals over the 100 and 200 meters and sprint relays.

Garth Wesley, a 47-year-old civil servant, believes Bolt is a victim of middle-class greed.

“If a man from the ghetto know is Bolt money, him wouldn’t touch it. Come to think of it, as bad as crime is in this country, if Usain Bolt walk in the most violent areas in Jamaica no one would touch him. People respect him that much,” he said.

On January 16th, Bolt’s attorneys threatened legal action if the funds were not returned. At press time, investigators were still in the dark as to the whereabouts of the hefty sum and Bolt’s representatives had not proceeded with their threat.

At a press conference 11 days later in Kingston to launch the Gibson Relays, meet, Bolt made his first comments on a scandal that has made international headlines. While admitting his anger at the SSL situation, Bolt stressed his unwavering commitment to Jamaica.

“No matter what’s going on right now, Jamaica is my country and that will never change and I will always love my country and will do everything in my power to uplift this country no matter what’s going on,” he said.

He also denied rumors he is broke. “I’m not broke, but it’s definitely put a damper on me,” he said. “It was for my future. Everybody knows I have three kids. I’m still looking out for my parents, and I still want to live very well.”

Bolt has fired Norman Peart, his close friend and longtime business manager who was also questioned by police in connection with the missing funds. Peart had said he and the sprinter parted ways amicably in late 2022, but Bolt declared that he fired Peart.

Meanwhile, with growing skepticism among Jamaicans about investing in private or government-run companies, Clarke has announced that legislation guaranteeing harsher penalties for white-collar crimes is near.

“If you rob depositors or you defraud investors ... and you put our financial system and our way of life at risk, the Jamaican society wants you put away for a long time,” he said.



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These Caribbean Countries Are Perceived As Most Corrupt

Corruption in the Caribbean continues to be a major issue for this region. Transparency International's latest Corruption Perceptions Index, (CPI), on corruption globally, the leading measurement for public sector corruption worldwide, show the countries in the Caribbean perceived as most corrupt.

The Index is the most widely used global corruption ranking in the world. It measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople. The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

A country's score is the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means highly corrupt and 100 means very clean. A country's rank is its position relative to the other countries in the index. Ranks can change merely if the number of countries

included in the index changes. The rank is therefore not as important as the score in terms of indicating the level of corruption in that country.

The Six Countries Perceived As Most Corrupt In The Caribbean

1: Haiti

Haiti was again deemed the most corrupt nation in the Caribbean, scoring just 17 out of 100 points and ranking at 171 globally on the CP Index that ranks 180 countries globally. Haiti dropped three places down the index from 2021.

2: Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic was listed as the second most corrupt nation, scoring 32 points out of 100 and ranking 123 out of 180. But the country gained four points from 2021, meaning it show some improvements



since last year. Transparency International said this was because the DR strengthened the independence of its justice and oversight bodies, enhancing transparency in public procurement, and enacting an asset forfeiture law — a key legal instrument to combat corruption and organized crime. However, the slow pace of the judicial processes has hampered progress with convictions for corruption, TI said. "There is concern in Dominican society that the courts are not living up to the strong national demand to advance in the fight against corruption and crime," the report added.

3: Guyana

Guyana ranks as the third most corrupt in the Caribbean region, scoring 40 out of 100 and ranking 85 out of 180. However, the country gained a point since last year, proving it showing some improvements since last year. Still TI said that while the country has significantly risen in the CPI over the last 12 years, it has recently stagnated even though "the oil-rich nation must still place stronger emphasis on building a well-functioning democratic system and implement greater levels of transparency and oversight, especially in the extractive industry."

But the report noted that "corruption in this sector implies the loss of billions of dollars, which could be used to improve public services and development in one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere."

4: Trinidad & Tobago

Trinidad & Tobago is the fourth most corrupt according to the latest Index, ranking at

77 out of 180 nations globally with a 42 out of 100 score. However, the country is showing some improvements since last year, moving up one point. Transparency International said 61 percent of people in Trinidad and Tobago consider the police corrupt.

5: Jamaica

Jamaica scored 44 out of 100 to take the fifth spot as it showed no improvements from 2021 to remain at 69. According to Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer for 2019, 50 per cent of people consider the police corrupt in Jamaica, and there is lack of trust in the national police.

6: Cuba

Cuba took the sixth spot with a rank of 65 globally and a score of 45, dropping by one from 2021.

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NEWS



FTX Sam Bankman-Fried Recounts Life Inside Prison In The Bahamas

Suspected fraudster, entrepreneur, investor, and former billionaire, FTX's Sam Bankman-Fried, is speaking out on what it was like to be in jail in the Bahamas.

In an exclusive interview with Forbes' Steven Ehrlich, Bankman-Fried, who choose extradition overstaying in jail in The Bahamas and awaiting trial, said Bahamas police showed up at this Bahamas home and he was given five minutes to collect medicine and a few other things on December 13, 2022, before he was escorted in handcuffs to the police station.

He said his request for bail was denied in three minutes and he was then taken into custody and sent to relative isolation in the Bahamas' notorious Fox Hill prison to await an extradition hearing on February 10, 2023.

Bankman-Fried told Forbes that his cell in Fox Hill was a 20-foot-square green and yellow

room that he shared with five other inmates, in the prison's infirmary. The infirmary, according to his account to Forbes, had a private bathroom with a door, but there was no way to flush the toilet other than pouring a bucket of water into it.

The phone-booth-sized shower was moldy and instead of a showerhead, Bankman-Fried told Forbes he took cold showers using a garden hose and dried off with a towel that was 3 inches by 5 inches. He ate largely peanut butter, stale Wonder Bread and fresh fruit.

Bankman-Fried described his sleeping arrangement as "the worst possible bed that you could imagine, made of cardboard and a piece of semi-soft plastic on top of stilts." There were no pillows so he rolled up the navy-blue suit jacket he would wear in court appearances.

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried (C) in custody in the Bahamas on December 13, 2022, accused of committing one of the biggest financial frauds in US history. (Photo by MARIO DUNCANSON/AFP via Getty Images)

Bankman-Fried said he made friends with other inmates but never once felt he was in danger. Some of them, he said asked him for money.

But he said the worst



Suspected fraudster, entrepreneur, investor, and former billionaire, FTX's Sam Bankman-Fried, is speaking out on what it was like to be in jail in the Bahamas. (PHOTO: Lam Yik/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

part of his nine-day Bahamian incarceration was the lack of internet. But he said he would occasionally get access to a newspaper and was limited to one 30-minute phone call during his entire stay but was allowed to meet with his Bahamian lawyers daily.

"I didn't realize how much more important than everything

else combined Internet access is to me, but that was like 80% of the total cost of being in prison," Bankman-Fried was quoted as saying.

By the end of his first week in jail, Bankman-Fried reports that he was going insane.

On December 19th, he waived his right to fight extradition and agreed to return to the U.S. to face charges.

He is now confined to his parents' \$4 million home, wearing an electronic ankle bracelet.

Bankman-Fried's trial is set for October 2. He faces eight charges related to the collapse of his former crypto exchange FTX and hedge fund Alameda Research.

Amnesty International in December said there was "unacceptably overcrowded accommodation was evidenced in all prison units," in the Bahamas, "seriously affecting the living conditions for inmates and the working conditions for staff."

"Cells were dark and

fetid, and many prisoners slept on cardboard," AI added in 'BAHAMAS - Forgotten Detainees?'

The US State Department, in its 2021 Human Rights report, said: "Conditions at the government's only prison, the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS) facility commonly known as Fox Hill Prison, were harsh due to overcrowding, poor nutrition, inadequate sanitation, and inadequate medical care. . . . Overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate access to medical care were problems in the BDCS men's maximum-security block. The facility was designed to accommodate 1,000 prisoners but was chronically overcrowded. Juvenile pretrial detainees were held with adults at the BDCS remand center, a minimum-security section of the prison."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Trinidadian National Among Caribbean Supreme Court Women Jurists Making History In New York

BY NELSON A. KING

A Trinidadian-born jurist has become the first woman and person of color to serve as a presiding judge as New York Supreme Court's Appellate Term, Second Department, for the 2nd, 11th and 13th Judicial Districts made history with a bench comprising all women.

Judge Wavny Toussaint was elected to the New York Supreme Court in 2014 and appointed to the Appellate Term in 2020, is regarded as a jurist of "high integrity."

"There have been many before me who struggled to ensure that the day would come when someone like me could step into this position, without the fanfare of being a 'first'," Justice Toussaint told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC). "I am grateful for their



Left to right: Justices Cheree Buggs, Lisa S. Ottley, Wavny Toussaint, Lourdes Ventura and Marina Mundy. (Photo Rob Abruzzese)

struggle. I remind myself, as I move forward as the Presiding Justice, that only history will tell whether, for all litigants, I ensured prompt decisions that were just, fair and based on the law."

The court hears appeals from the New York City Civil Court, including its Housing and Small Claims Parts, and

the New York City Criminal Court. The other members appointed are Associate Justices Lisa S. Ottley, of Kings County, Brooklyn, whose father hailed from Trinidad and Tobago; Marina Mundy, of Richmond County; and Lourdes Ventura and Cheree Buggs, of Queens County.

Last May, three Black women justices in New York including Trinidadian Michelle Weston, also created history by hearing cases together from the bench in the Appellate Term, Second Department, in the New York Supreme Court.

- Edited from CMC





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Florida Rights Organizations Slam Back At De Santis

The Florida branches of the American Civil Liberties Union and NAACP, along with other advocacy groups, have condemned the state's decision to reject an AP Black History course.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc., the American Civil Liberties Union, the A.C.L.U. of Florida and Ballard Spahr have filed a lawsuit on behalf of university professors

and a college student opposing Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' "Stop WOKE" law and, along with a second lawsuit, won a preliminary injunction blocking Florida's Board of Governors from enforcing its unconstitutional and racially discriminatory provisions at public universities.

Florida's rejection of the A.P. course and DeSantis's demand to excise specific subject areas

from the curriculum stand in stark opposition to the state-issued mandate that all students be taught "the history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition and the contributions of African Americans to society."

The law - which would limit students and teachers from learning and talking about issues related to race and gender - is seen as a move silence Black voices and erase the full and accurate history and contemporary experiences of Black people, including Caribbean immigrants who are an integral part of US Black history in Florida and nationally. More fundamentally, the governor held that Black "history" shouldn't be taught as a standalone course. Florida law already mandates that Black history be covered in the standard U.S. history curriculum.

While litigation continues, the various provisions of "Stop WOKE" and now the rejection of A.P. African American history could have devastating and far-reaching effects on the quality of education for Florida's 2.8 million students in its public K-12 schools. The same reasons that the "Stop WOKE" law is blocked from



A large crowd gathered at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee for the "Stop the Black Attack" rally, protesting Gov. Ron DeSantis' rejection of an AP African American studies course on Jan. 25, 2023. (Alicia Devine/The Tallahassee Democrat via AP)

US DHS Secretary Defends Parole Program During Little Haiti Meeting

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was recently in Miami to defend the recently announced parole process for Cubans, Haitians, Venezuelans, and Nicaraguans.

Mayorkas met with Haitian American politicians, Miami religious leaders, immigration lawyers, activists and county officials at the Little Haiti Cultural Center on Jan. 30th as critics grow including in the Democratic Party.

The program, announced on January 6th, would allow qualified beneficiaries from those four countries who are outside the United States and lack U.S. entry documents, to be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for advanced authorization to travel and a temporary period of parole for up to two years for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. To participate, eligible beneficiaries must:

political, social and economic conditions for Haitians to stay in the country.

"We're looking forward to this administration staying true to its promises, and really making it equitable for people to have access to the American dream," said North Miami Beach Commissioner Daniella Jean.

"We welcome everything that is good for the community. We believe that it provides a sense of relief, but it is not a solution," Father Reginald Jean-Mary was quoted by the Miami Herald as

saying. "It is important for the Biden-Harris administration to understand that the root cause of the problem is what's happening in Haiti."



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas alongside Miami-Dade mayor Daniella Levine Cava speak during press conference defending the recently announced parole process for Cubans, Haitians, Venezuelans, and Nicaraguans during a visit to Miami on Jan. 30, 2023. (Miami Herald Image)

- Have a supporter in the United States;
- Undergo and clear robust security vetting;
- Meet other eligibility criteria; and
- Warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

But many, including 77 Democratic Congressional Representatives, have pointed out that the program doesn't do anything to help those who are undocumented already in the United States, and the two-year window doesn't allow for a path to residency, creating further uncertainty about what happens after two years.

There are also concerns that the program, which requires applicants to be sponsored by family members living in the United States who can show they have the financial means to take care of someone for two years and pass a background check, will create problems among families not willing to sponsor relatives.

Haitian leaders also say the program further opens the door to a brain drain of professionals and others, raising questions about who will rebuild the country. Others have emphasized the need for the United States to work with Haitian civil society to create the necessary

so far, the attorneys general of 20 Republican states, including Florida, are suing the administration over the program. A federal judge has yet to hear the case, but the challenge has created panic in the communities that would benefit out of fear the court could halt the program.

Mayorkas, a Havana-born Cuban American who is the first Latino and immigrant to lead the agency, said it was "incomprehensible" that the lawsuit was filed because the program "addresses the challenge that we have been encountering at our southern border." He cited preliminary data the Department of Homeland Security released last week, which said that there had been a 97% decrease in encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border with Cubans, Nicaraguans, Haitians, and Venezuelans without proper documentation compared to December 2022.

enforcement in university settings hold for elementary and secondary schools. As a federal judge ruled in November, the law strikes "at the heart of 'open-mindedness and critical inquiry,'" such that "the State of Florida has taken over the 'marketplace of ideas' to suppress disfavored viewpoints."

De Santis also said on Jan. 31st that he intends to ban state universities from spending money on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in hopes that they will "wither on the vine" without funding.

"It really serves as an ideological filter, a political filter," the Republican said while speaking in Bradenton, Florida.

The proposal is a top priority

for DeSantis' higher education agenda this year, which also includes giving politically appointed presidents and university boards of trustees more power over hiring and firing at universities and urging schools to focus their missions on Florida's future workforce needs.

DeSantis, who is said to be weighing a potential 2024 presidential bid, has seen his standing among conservatives soar nationwide following his public stances on hot-button cultural and education issues.

- Rewritten from The New York Times and CNN



Caribbean American And Black Business Owner Wins A Comcast Grant

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

With a predicted market size of \$1.4 billion in 2023, according to Ibis World, a global market research firm, the US Food Truck business is one of the fastest growing industries going. In fact, the number of businesses in the industry has grown an average of 5.2 per cent per year between 2018 and 2023, with 32,176 Food Trucks in the US this year. One Food Truck venture is certainly taking advantage of the potential.

It's that potential that Haitian American Findler 'Fin' Charles has tapped into since 2019 as the owner and operator of Fin's Kitchen Food Truck. 'Fin,' as he is known, was recently recognised for his high-quality food and business acumen with a Comcast RISE Investment Fund grant, which awards \$10,000 to lucky Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Women small businesses owners to help them grow and market their burgeoning enterprise.

"With the Comcast RISE grant, I plan to invest into our online platform and reach new customers taking Fin's Kitchen to the next level," said an excited Charles.

The small business owner says starting a business has taught him valuable lessons and warns anyone looking to become an entrepreneur of the growing pains of starting and running a business.

"I was working at a dealership as a full-time mechanic, while also being a part time personal chef. After 3 years, I wanted to be in a new environment," he revealed on how he got started. "Around that time, food trucks started appearing and I found myself at local food truck events. I was very disappointed with the food that I had tasted and thought to myself, 'I can make food that tastes 10x better.' So, I started saving my money and decided to open my own food truck."

"Since I was doing it on my own and using my own money,

I reached out to someone to help me establish the food truck. I had saved three years of tax refunds, sold all my motorcycles, my toys, everything. But reality hit me hard when I got scammed for \$30,000. That was a big blow, and it actually killed my spirit for a time," Charles revealed.

Caribbean Tenacity

The entrepreneur at heart was not down for long. The son of Haitian parents, tapped into his Caribbean tenacity. He started again, did the necessary research and due diligence, going through all the requirements to open a food truck business in Oakland Park, Broward County.

As sole owner of Fin's Kitchen Food Truck, Charles received his certification and license in 2019 and officially opened for business in 2020, before the pandemic hit.

"The food truck was my full-time job," exclaimed Charles. But the pandemic helped me in a good way because it showed how versatile I was. I started reaching out to apartment complexes knowing that a lot of people were indoors. So, I started selling my Haitian infused cuisine to them, and of course, offering curbside pickup once the food was ordered online.

"They would get a text telling them when the food was ready for pickup; no worrying about social distancing or crowds of people around the truck. It worked, and they loved it."

Today, with two staff members, and help from his mother and sister at times, Charles' delectable offering of Haitian infused cuisine is one of the few Haitian food trucks in Florida amidst the plethora of Jamaican and Hispanic food sellers on the streets.

His aim he told Caribbean



Haitian American Findler 'Fin' Charles, the owner and operator of Fin's Kitchen Food Truck, is a COMCAST RISE winner. (Contributed Image)



Caribbean food options at Fin's Kitchen. (Contributed image)

Today is to please the taste buds and the soul with Haitian food, culture, and hospitality. With fond memories of his visits to Haiti enjoying the local dishes, and his mother preparing Haitian dishes at home like white rice and black beans, called Sòs pwa, Charles' passion for food preparation with a Caribbean twist peaked.

"Growing up, I was always inspired by my mother's traditional dishes. With my business, she has given me so much help and encouragement. She also critiques my food," said Charles.

His offerings are based on the traditional foods he grew up with including conch fritters,

pork (or griot) tacos, fried ripe plantains.

"We are known for our Griot Tacos, which is fried pork tacos. The griot is chopped and placed in a flour tortilla. We make an Island sauce out of ketchup, mayo, hot sauce, fresh squeezed limes, salt and pepper. We drizzle it on the taco and top it off with a Pikliz, a spicy cabbage," he shared.

Importantly, to widen his customer base, Fin's Kitchen Food Truck also offers Haitian cuisine for non-meat eaters. His 'Caribbean Rice Bowl' can be served sans meat, with roasted vegetables drizzled with a sweet Thai chili sauce, served with sweet plantains.

Stand Out

Charles is determined to stand out from the crowd of food trucks on the market today. Besides his food offerings, it is all about how he operates and good customer service he noted is critical. He starts with the seasoning and cooking of the food that draws customers in. Caribbean music adds to the vibes and a friendly welcoming smile tops off the experience.

"I try to do everything from scratch," he told CT. "We try to be original and fresh about how we cook. So, we make our island sauce; we have our in-house chipotle sauce that we make. We actually buy cases of lemons and hand squeeze them. We use vegan sugar. My motto is: 'If I'm not going to enjoy it why should I put it out for people to enjoy?'"

Living his purpose and adding to his uniqueness, Charles is putting his Comcast RISE investment grant to good use. He is in the R&D phase of creating three new products, one being a brand-new seasoning profile. He is also creating an online platform that will allow him to

ship food products to other states. The idea is for customers to be able to order frozen foods stuffs online then prepare a full meal based on recipes sent with the order.

And he has visions of a brick-and-mortar restaurant building. But that's not all. He wants to develop a production line to help young culinary chefs with a similar passion find the right resources to open their own businesses.

His advice to aspiring culinary business owners? "Do your research. You don't want to jump in head first, because that's what I did, and it cost me \$30,000. That's money I'm never getting back."

"Besides the research," he says, "Envision yourself actually doing the work and see if it's your passion. Being your own business owner is not for the weak. But, once you make a plan and you're ready, execute it. Don't let anyone stop you. Going forward and pushing for what you believe in, you will become successful."



Caribbean Immigrant And South Florida Resident Turns 101

A Caribbean immigrant and South Florida resident of Miramar is now 101. Mrs. Ruby Campbell celebrated the major milestone birthday on January 26th with a drive-by celebratory surprise planned by the City of Miramar and along with the Miramar Fire and Police departments.

Mrs. Campbell was born in the garden parish of St. Ann, Jamaica on the January 26, 1922. She was married to Ivan Samuel Campbell for more than 60 years. The union produced 10 children, 26 grand, 17 great grand and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Affectionally known as "Grandma," the centenarian has



Mrs. Ruby Campbell, a Jamaican immigrant who lives in Miramar, is now 101.

mothered an entire community, with her kindness, both indeed and thoughts and opened doors

to many, embracing them as part of her immediate family.

Mrs. Campbell boasts a dynamic personality and is a stern disciplinarian, who insists that education must be the catalyst that provides the gateway for advancement.

Mrs. Campbell has always been humble and attributes all blessings to God. A deeply religious and Christian in faith, has governed her life and she has always been a member of the Seventh Day

Adventist Church.

On the other hand, no one

enjoys laughter and tells a good joke more than 'Grandma.'

Many calls and visits by family and friends have been characterized by her injection of humor and anecdotal references.

This centenarian is also described as "the kindest and most caring mother, grandma, great mother and friend anyone can have."

The celebration was spearheaded by Miramar Commissioner Alexandra P. Davis and most of Mrs. Davis' children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, who were all in attendance.



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Could Prince Harry's Loose Lips Sink His Own Immigration Ship?

Could Prince Harry's decision to dish all, including perhaps foolishly sharing about taking cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms and weed before coming to America, and most recently in the US as recently as 2020, come back to bite possibly bite him in his royal behind?

The British and American press continues to press the issue and question essentially if he could lose his immigration status over his loose lips.

Harry, the Duke of Sussex in his memoir 'Spare,' admitted using cocaine and psilocybin mushrooms, and smoking weed. In an effort to perhaps cleanse his soul, he revealed through his ghost writer that he smoked weed in high school; after his first date with his now wife, Meghan Markle in 2016, and most recently in 2020, after he had moved to the US and while he, his wife and little son were living at Tyler Perry's LA home during the lockdown while house hunting.

"Late at night with everyone asleep, I'd walk the house, checking the doors and windows. Then I'd sit on the balcony or the edge of the garden and roll a joint," he stated in the memoir of his most recent weed smoking episodes after moving to the US.

Harry also opened up about using other drugs like cocaine, ketamine, and psilocybin mushrooms. In fact, he claimed he was tripping pretty hard at a party at actor Courteney Cox's house when a garbage bin started looking like someone's head. He wrote: "I stepped on the pedal and the head opened its mouth. A huge open grin. I laughed."

The admissions have triggered a series of questions over how his drug use could possibly impact his immigration status. While it is unclear what visa exactly Harry is here on, since his wife is a US citizen and could easily sponsor him, there is speculation that he is here on an O visa, which is usually granted to people with "extraordinary abilities," such as athletes or people in motion picture or television industry. Such visas usually come up for renewal after 3 years.

Also, back in 2021, The Times reported that though Prince Harry is eligible to immediately become a U.S. permanent resident and subsequently a U.S. citizen, he will not pursue permanent residency and citizenship in the United States.

That news let to both the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail speculating last week in a flurry of news articles that Harry's admitted drug use in his new memoir could threaten his American residency.

"Harry could be barred from the U.S. ... after his admission he has taken drugs," speculated The Daily Mail in a headline. Then George Washington University immigration professor Alberto Benitez, was quoted by the Daily Telegraph in a headline that screamed: "Prince Harry 'should have been denied US residency' over drug use revealed in memoir."

Benitez was quoted as saying the son of King Charles, III, would have been asked about his prior drug use upon his application to reside in the United States with his American wife, Meghan."

If he was "truthful in his answers, he should have been denied," insisted Professor

Benitez, director of George Washington University's Immigration Clinic. If he lied, his visa could now be revoked, Benitez told The Telegraph.

Tiana Lowe, a commentary writer for the Washington Times, was more dramatic, leading with a piece on January 8th ahead of the official release of the 'Spare' memoir with the headline: "Biden should deport Prince Harry to kick off immigration crisis crackdown."

In it, she claimed that the Duke of Sussex "almost surely lied to immigration authorities about his prevalent use of Schedule I drugs and Schedule II narcotics."

"If Biden is serious about cracking down on the country's current immigration crisis, there would be no better way to signal his seriousness than to deport a high-profile, wildly privileged prince who, if he did indeed lie to immigration officials, committed a felony," she stated.

So, what does the O-Visa law state? According to US authorities, typically applicants with illegal substance history would be denied a visa. But entry is granted on a case-to-case basis.

US immigration rules state an individual's 'current and/or past actions, such as drug or criminal activities . . . may make the applicant ineligible for a visa'.

Still U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of State continue to intensify their focus on alcohol and drug use as they relate to immigration processing. Attorney Michael Skinner of the Skinner Law Firm writes that "under 8 U.S.C. 1182, any alien who is determined . . . to be a drug abuser or addict, is inadmissible."

He further added: "When a USCIS or consular officer suspects an applicant is a drug addict or harmful alcoholic, the officer will likely refer the applicant to a civil surgeon for a medical review. If the civil surgeon concludes the applicant is a drug addict or harmful alcoholic, any application for a green card or visa will be denied.

Which means that if Harry had owned up to his drug usage earlier, he may have been denied residency, as anyone seeking residency is asked a series of questions pertaining to their criminal and drug history.

But Skinner also notes that "even if a person is already in the United States, he or she could be deported. Under 8 U.S.C. 1227(a)

(2)(B)(ii), 'any alien who is, or at any time after admission has been, a drug abuser or addict is deportable.'"

So, will his own admission make it harder for the Royal Prince to stay in the US? Professor Benitez, claims, officials may have already cut Harry some slack because of his status as a member of the royal family.

"If it was 'Fred Jones' and he had this kind of a [drug]

background ... he'd have a lot more scrutiny," Benitez surmised.

"Many Green Card holders and Permanent Residents have been deported to countries where they never lived for possessing drug paraphernalia," added Attorney Allen Orr Jr. "They are mostly black and brown immigrants from heavily policed areas. They should be treated with the same grace as the Duke Of Sussex."

And I agree. Maybe, if he was Haitian or African, he would be for sure. Harry's millions earned just for airing his dirty laundry is enough to buy him the best immigration attorney anyway. That's Royal, White privilege for you.

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



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

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VIEWPOINT



Homosexuality And Pope Francis

BY SIR RONALD SANDERS

Being homosexual is not a crime. We are all children of God, and God loves us as we are and for the strength that each of us fights for our dignity.” Those words were spoken by Pope Francis, easily the most radical pontiff that the Roman Catholic Church has ever had.

The Pope was speaking in an interview with the Associated Press that was published on January 25th, ahead of a planned tour of two African countries, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The African continent ranks among the most homophobic regions of the world. Apart from South Africa, Mozambique and Angola, which are countries whose governments and peoples are most tolerant of homosexual rights, the majority of African nations rate equally with the intolerant governments of Russia, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has advocated a less doctrinal policy approach for modern Catholicism. Francis is a man of his time, determined not to harden the Church’s anachronistic positions in times, which have changed, with a greater emphasis on human rights, including gay rights. In the interview with the Associated Press, he emphasised the Holy See’s position that laws that criminalize homosexuality outright are “unjust” and that the Church must work to put an end to them.

He did not spare Bishops of the Church who support laws that criminalize homosexuality. He said that they need to “have a process of conversion” and should apply “tenderness, please, as God has for each one of us.” Whether he has opened the eyes, ears and hearts of the controlling hierarchy of the Church is left to be seen.

What is certain is that Francis has succeeded in humanising the face of the Church which, for centuries, imposed repressive rules on its followers that, politically, supported colonialism, imperialism

and racism. In a socio-economic context, its rules on abortion, caused suffering and hardship for poor communities around the world, particularly in Ireland and Latin America where Catholicism dominated.

The impact that his approach has achieved is evident in the leadership of Ireland and in parts of Africa. The current Taoiseach, or the head of government, of Ireland is Leo Eric Varadka who is the child of an Indian father and an Irish mother, and is a declared homosexual. Many prejudices – both racial and religious – were overcome with his election, in a remarkable tribute to the openness of the Irish people to change. But, the influence of Pope Francis, now completing a decade as a change-agent of the Church, contributed immensely to the freedom of thinking and attitudes in Ireland.

Similarly, his papacy has had a beneficial effect in Africa where recent statistics show 2.1 per cent growth in Catholic followers between 2019 and 2020. Out of a global population of 1.36 billion Catholics, 236 million are African or 20% of the total. Reports indicate that Catholicism is witnessing a “youth bulge” in Africa. This follows the effective transmission of Pope Francis’ message that churches, religious groups and governments show solidarity with young people. He calls them “the church of now.”

In November 2022, during a synodal consultation with African youth, he denounced the exploitation of Africa by external forces and its destruction by wars, ideologies of violence and policies that rob young people of their future. That message by the Head of a Church, which conspired with many authoritarian regimes in Latin America, Europe and in parts of Africa and Asia, to exploit and repress their people, has a powerful appeal.

Nonetheless, his visit to South Sudan and the DRC will not be without its problems. In the interview with the Associated Press, Pope Francis acknowledged that in Africa and other parts of the



“Being homosexual is not a crime,” says Pope Francis. (PHOTO: Filippo MONTEFORTE/AFP)

world, there needs to be change in relation to anti-homosexual laws. Responding to the question, “Can the Church contribute to repealing these laws?”, he was unequivocal, saying: “They have to do it. What happens is that they are cultures in a state and the bishops of that place, although they are good bishops, [they] are part of the culture and some still have their minds in that culture. The bishops also have [to undergo] a process of conversion.”

Some of these reluctant Bishops exist in South Sudan and DRC as they do in other parts of Africa and the Caribbean. Having been nurtured in a culture of

intolerance, they find adjustment to a new dispensation difficult. Although, as Pope Francis pointed out, “In the catechism of the Catholic Church it says that people of homosexual tendency have to be welcomed, they do not have to be marginalized”. He makes it clear that “Every man and woman has to have a window into his life where he can pour his hope and where he can see the dignity of God. And being gay is not a crime. It’s a human condition.”

Throughout most of the world, societies and governments have accepted that “being gay is a human condition.” The result is that members of the LGBTQIA community have attained high positions in all sectors of society. While there may be little hope in authoritarian countries, such as Russia, Afghanistan and Iran, it is past time for more progressive societies to heed the counsel and wisdom of Pope Francis, who has emerged as an enlightened, caring example of the best of humanity.

I had the privilege of working with a former Justice of the High Court of Australia, Michael Kirby, when we were members of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, which was commissioned by Heads of Government to

propose ways of reforming the Commonwealth in 2010. Justice Kirby urged all members of the Group to recommend abolition of the homosexual laws, which were imposed on its colonies by the colonial British government – laws which Britain itself repealed but are retained to this day by some Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

He made this telling point to the group – if governments and civil societies had not taken a strong and determined stand against Apartheid in South Africa, and before that in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), institutional racism would still exist in Africa, robbing the majority black populations of their right to equality, fairness and justice.

Kirby’s irresistible argument resonates in the words of Pope Francis.

- CANA News

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sir Ronald Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States.



Love And Seawater

When lovers part ways to go to foreign climes, there is always a mixed bag of emotions, fears, doubts, anticipation and sorrow. The person who is leaving is looking forward to new adventures, even though the pain of leaving a loved one behind is pervasive.

As for that lover who’s left behind, the emotions and anguish are magnified, surpassed only by doubts, for he or she doesn’t know if the partner will lose feelings or find somebody else and never return.

“Cause I’m leaving, on a jet plane, don’t know when I’ll be back again.” That song, ‘Leaving On A Jet Plane,’ has haunted countless couples who’ve experienced the pain of losing someone to a long distance relationship. It gives a different meaning to the term dearly departed.

“Why you crying dear?” “My boyfriend is dearly departed, he just left for foreign.” Can the relationship work, or are they doomed to fritter away, dispersed like dandelion dust or melted away like an ice cube in the sun?

Distance and time do take their toll on even the strongest love, and after a while, they prove to be too much for mere mortals to endure.

There’s an old Jamaican saying: ‘Love and sea water don’t mix.’ That chasm, that abyss, that great divide, that void, that enormous distance, filled only with the lapping waves of an infinite ocean, will override any feelings of love that now exist.



Well, at times it does last for a while, and the lovers get a shot at true love, but only if there’s a definite end in sight, a finite time. If one party goes away to school for a prescribed time, there might be a chance.



TONY ROBINSON

But if the time is uncertain, open ended, infinite, like a big job overseas which may last for many years, the toll that it takes on the lovers may be insurmountable. The danger lies in one lover starting a new life while being away, forging new friendships, meeting new people, being exposed to things that weren’t available prior. Or conversely, the one left behind gets so lonely that he or she seeks the company of someone else. ‘And if you can’t be with the one you love, honey, love the one you’re with.’

The parting scenes can be poignant, painful, pitiful, promising. “Honey,

don’t worry, I’ll wait for you no matter how long it takes.” There’s the Internet, but after a year and a half of emotional e-love, the relationship will experience a crisis; there are cracks in the carapace, fractures, fissures in the flooring, chasms in the characters. The distance is taking its toll.

“Yes, we talk every day and night, but phone romance can only do so much.” It’s hard for a young man still in his prime to endure that sort of long-distance celibate love. How long can he endure? How long can she stay alone in this long-distance love? Is it fair? Don’t they both fear that they won’t fare well during these long, cold lonely nights apart from each other? Sure, all the poets write that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but the question is, fonder for who?

Do an experiment - leave your best friend to ‘look after’ your lover while you’re away and see what happens after three or four years. “Honey, I held out as long as I could, but one rainy night my body just gave in.”

“When two hearts are meant for each other, no distance is too far, no time is too long, and no other love can break them apart.” That sounds so romantic, platitudinous, pedantic, philosophical, pleasing, promising, but is it practical?

Does it have a place in this fast-paced whirling world of modern but often ephemeral romance? Can the lovers sustain the test of time, and more importantly, can they survive love and sea water?

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Four Black Caribbean Immigrants In US Black History

As we begin another Black History Month in the United States, we at Caribbean Today also celebrate the many Black Caribbean immigrants who were an undeniable part of US Black History. Here are four you should know.

GEORGE PADMORE



George Padmore was one of the Caribbean immigrant founding member of The African Blood Brotherhood for African Liberation and Redemption organization.

George Padmore was one of the Caribbean immigrant founding member of The African Blood Brotherhood for African Liberation and Redemption organization. A journalist, radical activist, and theoretician, Padmore did more than perhaps any other single individual to shape the theory and discourse of Pan-African anti-imperialism in the first half of the twentieth century.

He was born Malcolm Ivan Meredith Nurse in Trinidad. Nurse attended Tranquillity School in Port of Spain, before going to St Mary's College for two years. He transferred to the Pamphylian High School, graduating from there in 1918. After that he worked for several years as a reporter with the Trinidad Publishing Company.

In late 1924, he travelled to the United States to take up medical studies at Fisk University, a historically black college in Tennessee and then Howard University. In 1928 he dropped out of Howard's law school and joined the American Communist Party and adopted the name George Padmore.

Padmore officially joined the Communist Party in 1927 (when he was in Washington, DC) and was active in its mass organization targeted to black Americans. In March 1929 he was a fraternal (non-voting) delegate to the 6th National Convention of the CPUSA, held in New York City.

Padmore, through the African Blood Brotherhood for African Liberation and Redemption, raised made note of black people's exploitation as a class and as a race, which led to his criticism of the C P's failure to

link its organizing in the U.S. Padmore died on September 23, 1959, aged 56, at University College Hospital in London.

OTTO HUISWOOD

Otto Eduard Gerardus Majella Huiswoud was a Surinamese political activist who was a charter member of the Communist Party of America. Huiswoud is regarded as the first black member of the American communist movement. Huiswoud served briefly as the Communist Party's representative to the Executive Committee of the Communist International in 1922 and was a leading black Comintern functionary during the decade of the 1920s.

Huiswoud was born October 28, 1893, in Paramaribo, in what was then the Dutch colony of Surinam and is today the capital of



Otto Eduard Gerardus Majella Huiswoud was a Surinamese political activist who was a charter member of the Communist Party of America.

the independent country of Suriname. He was the son of Rudolf Huiswoud, a former slave who had gained his freedom as a boy of 11 and who learned the skills of a tailor, working at the trade until his death in 1920. His mother, Jacqueline Bernard Huiswoud, originally hailed from the island of Curaçao. Otto was the fifth child and the second son in a family of eight siblings.

Huiswoud was unhappy with his lot in life as a printer's apprentice, however, so in January 1910 the 16-year-old convinced his father to allow him to depart to see the world and he shipped out on a banana boat bound for the Netherlands.

Due to the abysmal working conditions onboard, Huiswoud and two of his Surinamese mates decided to jump ship when it was docked in New York. He settled in Brooklyn, where he made ends meet by working at various jobs as a printer, cook, and janitor.

In New York, Huiswoud was exposed to soapbox speakers in Union Square, where he was introduced to socialist arguments and literature for the first time. By 1916, he had become a

member of the Socialist Party of America (SPA), participating actively in the Young People's Socialist League at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he studied agriculture.

During the summer of 1918, Huiswoud took a job working on a pleasure boat that was part of the Fall River Line. Black crew members were not organized by the International Seamen's Union, so Huiswoud took it upon himself to lead a walkout that led the company to negotiate for better pay and improved working conditions for its minority workers.

Huiswoud found himself a supporter of the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party during the acrimonious factional war of 1919. He was one of 94 delegates to the June 1919 National Conference of the Left Wing, which elected a governing Left Wing National Council and participated in the formation of the Communist Party of America on September 1 of that year.

Through his connection to the radical black political leaders of Harlem, Huiswoud eventually made his way to membership in the African Blood Brotherhood, a secret society established by Cyril Briggs to promote black liberation and self-defense against the Red Summer of 1919. Although an active participant in the organization, Huiswoud was not among the group's founders.

In the summer of 1922, Huiswoud was chosen as the candidate of the Workers Party of America - the new "legal" political arm of what was then the underground Communist Party - as its candidate for the New York State Legislature in its 22nd Assembly District.

RICHARD B. MOORE

Richard Benjamin Moore was a Barbados-born Afro-Caribbean civil rights activist, writer and prominent socialist. Moore migrated to the United States and arrived in New York City on July 4, 1909. However, Moore would not become a naturalized citizen until September 11, 1924.

Although African Americans were free in the United States, they were far from being treated equal to European-Americans. Moore was immediately faced with ethnic discrimination when it came to employment and educational opportunities. Although trained in Barbados to do clerical work, he was forced to turn to other jobs such as an elevator operator and work in a silk manufacturing firm.

The struggles that Moore



Richard Benjamin Moore was a Barbados-born Afro-Caribbean civil rights activist, writer and prominent socialist.

encountered and observed made him become a strong advocate for the rights of African Americans. In 1919, he joined the African Blood Brotherhood (ABB), which was an organization formed to defend African Americans from race riots and lynching. Moore, along with other African American advocates, joined the Socialist Party in the early 1920s. Moore also joined the Socialist Party, partly because the Socialist Party was then transforming itself into a force to fight against segregation.

Moore was a frequent political candidate of the Communist Party. In 1928 he ran for the US Congress in New York's 21st congressional district. In 1934, Moore ran on the Socialist ticket for Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. In 1935, he became the organizer for the International Labor Defense in the New England Territory.

He also played a leading role in Caribbean advocacy groups. Moore also ran the Frederick Douglass Book Center in Harlem. He wrote a few books himself, including *The Name "Negro": Its Origin and Evil Use* (1960) and *Caribs, Cannibals and Human Relations* (1972). He also had essays and articles published in various magazines and journals, including the *Negro Champion*, *Daily Worker*, and *Freedomways*. Moore died in his homeland of Barbados in 1978, at the age of 85.

ASHLEY TOTTEN

Ashley Totten, a Pullman New York porter, made the bold move of organizing a porters' labor union in 1925 - the Pullman Porter Athletic Association.

Totten was born on St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands in 1884 and moved to New York in 1905 according to Yellowpigs.com. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he returned to New York in 1915, where

he worked as a Pullman car porter on the New York Central Railroad.

In 1924 Totten was elected to represent New York porters at a wage conference in Chicago. As a result of the conference, the porters gained a meager wage increase. Disappointed by the outcome, Totten approached black labor activist Asa Philip Randolph for help the following year. After a few meetings, Randolph agreed to lead the new union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Totten was soon fired from Pullman and devoted all his time to organizing the Brotherhood. Though



Ashley Totten, a Pullman New York porter, made the bold move of organizing a porters' labor union in 1925 - the Pullman Porter Athletic Association.

Randolph is remembered as the primary figure of the union, Totten's work was perhaps equally instrumental.

In addition to working for the Brotherhood to improve conditions in the United States, Totten was involved in Virgin Islands politics during the unpopular naval rule. With fellow Virgin Islander Elizabeth Hendrickson, he founded and administered the Virgin Islands Protective League, an organization which aimed at addressing the racial mistreatment of those in their homeland. In 1918 Totten and Hendrickson were selected as delegates to travel to the Virgin Islands to gain firsthand knowledge of the post-transfer conditions.

Totten also served as the president of the American Virgin Islands Civic Association, was appointed by Harry S Truman to the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Corporation, was a chairman of the draft board in Harlem, and served as vice president of the Trade Union Division of the Liberal Party of New York City.



FEATURE



Six Things To Know About The First Haitian American To Serve As US Attorney In South Florida



U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Markenzy Lapointe. (US DOJ Image)

It's been almost a month already since history was made in South Florida and a Haitian immigrant was sworn in as the first Haitian American United States Attorney in South Florida.

Here are 6 things to know about this Caribbean immigrant:

1: He is Markenzy Lapointe, 54, who took the oath before Chief U.S. District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga on January 9, 2023. Lapointe replaces Juan Antonio Gonzalez, a career federal prosecutor who had led the office since March 2021. "I am deeply honored to serve my country and community as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida," said Lapointe. "The proud history of this office stems from decades of commitment to justice, fairness, integrity, and community service. I will follow these principles and strive to uphold

the standard of excellence on which this office is built."

2: Lapointe was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and immigration to Miami at age 16 to live in the Liberty City neighborhood.

3: He went to Edison High School and then Miami Dade College and joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the Florida State University in 1993 and a Juris Doctor from the Florida State University College of Law in 1999.

4: From 1999 to 2001, he worked as a law clerk for Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead. From 2002 to 2006, he served as an assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Lapointe then went into private practice as a partner at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP and later in the Miami office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where he handled commercial, high exposure product liability, professional malpractice, and criminal investigation matters. He also co-chaired the law firm's Advancement of Diverse Attorneys Committee, promoting the retention and advancement of attorneys from diverse backgrounds.

5: Throughout his career, Lapointe has maintained a

notable pro bono practice. He received the Legal Aid/ Put Something Back Pro Bono Award in Child Advocacy and the Daily Business Review's Most Effective Lawyer Award for Pro Bono in Family Law.

6: On September 15, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Lapointe to be the United States attorney for the Southern District of Florida. On December 1, 2022, his nomination was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by voice

vote. On December 6, 2022, his nomination was confirmed in the Senate by voice vote.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



DR Born Bow Valley College Graduate Wins Top Prize In Prominent Industry Competition

A Dominican Republic-born immigrant is the winner of the top prize in the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) Student Design Competition. Beatriz Hernandez of Bow Valley College won for her recommendations for a kitchen remodel, that stood out amongst dozens of applicants in Canada and the United States.

"I couldn't believe it. It is an honour to be recognized for something I'm passionate about and that I put a lot of passion into," Hernandez, who is an international student, said. "I wanted to provide the clients with a beautiful and functional renovation that will work for them now and in the future. I put together a construction plan and design statement that offers a combination of meeting personal tastes and needs and timeless finishes that will add to the value of their home."

Hernandez graduated from Bow Valley College in December 2022 with a Kitchen and Bath Design Post-Diploma Certificate. She said she chose the program



Beatriz Hernandez, of Bow Valley College and the DR, won for her recommendations for a kitchen remodel, that stood out amongst dozens of applicants in Canada and the United States. (Bow College image)

to supplement her degree in architecture, expanding her expertise in residential interior design. Hernandez gained practical experience with Krista Hermanson Design in Calgary, where she is now working full-time as a designer assistant. The NKBA Prairie Provinces Chapter honoured Hernandez at

a lecture at Bow Valley College on January 26, 2023. Her award includes a \$5,000 scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to Las Vegas for the annual Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), the largest trade show of its kind in the world.



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HIT & RUN FATALITY

VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN
Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

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

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

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

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit www.CrimeStoppers305.com and select "Submit a Tip"
- Visit www.facebook.com/crimestoppers305 - "Contact Us"
- Visit the App Store - Get P3 and sign into Miami for Tips

If the tip leads to the arrest of the subject(s), the tipster may be eligible for a reward UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00. All calls are kept strictly anonymous.

ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armendariz MDPD C/N PD210502138114

If this flyer aids in your investigation in any way, please advise Deborah Simons, I.A., of the South Florida Homicide Clearinghouse at 305-471-2400.

Caribbean American Performers For This Year's Super Bowl

Get ready for not just one but two Caribbean heritage acts at this year's Super Bowl.

Jamaican American Emmy-winning actress Sheryl Lee Ralph can now count her name as part of an already highly anticipated Super Bowl line-up led by Barbadian born super star, Rihanna.

Ralph, whose mother was born in Jamaica, will be singing the Black national anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" ahead of kick-off, and anyone who watched her Emmy Award acceptance speech, or who knows she was the original Deena in Dreamgirls, is positively quivering in anticipation for Super Bowl LVII.

"Come on now. Don't you ever give up on you baby!" Lee shared via her social media. "I'll be singing Lift Every Voice and Sing at Super Bowl LVII - See you there!"

Rihanna, born in Barbados of Barbadian and Guyanese parents,



Bajan Super Star Rihanna is slated to perform during the half-time show at the 2023 Super Bowl. (PHOTO: CHRIS-TOPHER POLK/NBC VIA GETTY)



Emmy winner and Jamaican Sheryl Lee Ralph will perform at the opening of the 2023 Super Bowl. (Photo: AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

is set to take over the half-time show, giving the Caribbean roots acts and the region something else to also cheer about. Rihanna hasn't released an album since 2016's ANTI, but she did release two songs last year as part of the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever soundtrack and promptly earned

her first Oscar nomination for "Lift Me Up."

Little is known about RiRi's grand return to live performance other than that it does not mean an album is coming.

The Super Bowl performances comes as ESPN's Stephen A. Smith learned a

valuable lesson recently: don't come for Rihanna unless she calls for you. The ESPN analyst became The Navy's number 1 target after his appearance on Sherri Shepherd's daytime talk show, where he made the bold statement, "there's one thing she's not, she ain't Beyoncé."

He went on to explain himself, saying he only brought up Bey because she performed twice at the Super Bowl, and he thought they were the most amazing performances he's ever seen. "What I'm saying is anybody has to measure up to that." "Michael Jackson could still be alive, and I would say he has to measure up to that," he said passionately inside a car. "I meant it as no disrespect," he said. "[Rihanna] You know you gotta turn it out," Smith concluded

his video.

After his apology, he went on Fox 29 to explain why he apologized, saying he had friends in Hollywood who said it was being absorbed as if he was pinning one black woman against another. "Which is not what I was doing," he said.

His car apology video was viewed 1 million times on Twitter. It had a mix of responses like, "The man talks s**t to Cowboys fans for a living but Rihanna fans got him ready to go into witness protection lol" and, "don't address her ever again loser."

The Super Bowl will air live on FOX at 6:30 P.M. E.T. on February 12, 2023.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean Artists Among 2023 GRAMMY Winners

Two Caribbean artists were among the 2023 GRAMMY winners last night, Feb. 5th, at the 65th awards held at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Jamaican-born reggae artiste Kabaka Pyramid won his first Grammy - the 2023 Grammy for Best Reggae Album for "The Kalling." In so doing he bested a field of Jamaican entertainers as the only first-time nominee among them.

Kabaka Pyramid's immediate reaction after accepting the award and standing in front of the microphone: "Mi can't believe it. Rastafari live."

He continued: "I know I don't have whole heap a time, I just want say thank you to the Academy, thank you to all the other nominees. We are representing Jamaica, we are representing the Caribbean."

He also thanked his mother, father, management team as well as those who worked on the album with him, including Damion 'Jr Gong' Marley, who produced the sophomore album.

"We just some kids from Kingston Jamaica," Kabaka Pyramid said after also thanking everybody "supporting reggae music, positive, conscious



Jamaican-born reggae artiste Kabaka Pyramid won his first Grammy - the 2023 Grammy for Best Reggae Album - for "The Kalling." (Twitter/Recording Academy image)

music."

The entertainer dedicated the win to Bob Marley's grandson Jo Mersa, who died last year, and "all a my family," before ending with, "Nuff love, blessings every time" and a big up for fellow nominee Protoje. Puerto Rico born artiste Bad Bunny won for best música urbana album.

Meanwhile, Barbadian songbird Amanda Reifer unlocked new stardom as well by being part of Kendrick Lamar's Grammy winning album Mr Morale and the Big Steppers.

Reifer, the lead singer with the band Cover Drive, lent her smooth vocals to the track 'Die Hard' alongside Kendrick & Blxst.

The album was released as a double album and is Lamar's fifth and final studio album with Top Dawg Entertainment (TDE), which is an American independent record label founded in 2004, by CEO Anthony "Top Dawg" Tiffith.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Grammy Nominated, Jamaican-Born Jazz Great Brings A 'Love Note' To West Palm Beach This Valentine's Day

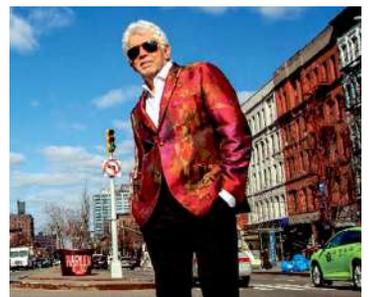
On the heels of the release of his 'Love Notes' album and an Order of Jamaica from his native land, Grammy-nominated jazz great, Dr. Monty Alexander, is set to bring a Valentine's Day performance to West Palm Beach, Florida this February 14th that will see the marriage of Jamaican rhythms and vibrations with the great American song book of love songs.

The world-renowned, international musician will perform 'Love Notes' at the Rinker's playhouse at The Raymond F. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, on Feb. 14th, for two shows only - at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The intimate and romantic evening, according to Dr. Alexander, will feature songs from the greats he grew up with as a child in Jamaica, such as Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra and Billie Holiday, as well as Jamaican musicians from the era of ska and reggae, including Sly and Robbie.

Alexander was blessed to not only grow up on the music of the American greats he listened to as a child in Jamaica, but later to play with some in his early musical career, including the legendary Sinatra.

The Feb. 14th Valentine Show will also feature international vocalist, Caterina Zaponi, as well as Cleveland-born American



Dr. Monty Alexander, OD. (Hollis King Image)

jazz trumpeter, composer, and big band leader, Dominick Farinacci; acoustic guitar and talented Jamaican-born electric bass player, Joshua Thomas; world renown drummer on the Jazz scene, Jason Brown, and New York City-based jazz bassist, composer and teacher, Luke Sellick.

Fans will also be able to meet Dr. Alexander after the last set at a special CD signing of his 'Love Notes' album that's available for sale on Amazon. Songs on the latest album include: 'These Love Notes,' 'Moon River,' 'Faith Can Move Mountains,' 'As Time Goes By,' 'The Nearness of You' and 'Island in the Sun,' among other.

Alexander says the show is also a celebration of his recent award from the Jamaican government and a tribute to his roots. Tickets for each show range from \$39.00 - \$69.00 and are available for purchase on the Kravis Center website.



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

Princess Shuri Is Touring The Land Of Her Birth

Princess Shuri of Black Panther fame is on tour not in Wakanda but in Guyana, the CARICOM South American nation she was born in and left at age 7 for London.

Letitia Michelle Wright began a two-week tour of her CARICOM homeland after landing in the South American nation on Jan. 27th. The actress, who was born in Good Intent, Guyana but raised in the UK from age 8, was met by Oneidge Walrond, Guyana's Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) and special performances by the National School of Dance, steelpan music.

The star became the most emotional when she was hugging her father and grandmother, who were part of the welcome team. During her address to the press, the Black Panther star said as the plane was landing, she was reminded of her last day in Guyana. She said even as a child, she knew she was destined for something great.

"At the age of eight, I knew there was something for me to do. I didn't know that I would go away for so long. So, as I was landing, I was remembering that little girl and how frustrated she was and not knowing how much she would miss her country and



Black Panther Letitia Wright on arrival in her homeland of Guyana on Jan. 27, 2023. (Guyana DPI Image)

how much she would mean to her country...I just went to the UK and got an opportunity," she said.

The young actress said acting has always been a part of her, but she never knew she would become such an influence on the world and especially a role model for young people here.

"If anyone looks at me, I'm really just really humble. I come from a humble background, and I just got an opportunity and always try to use my talent for good. I just hope that no matter how old you are, you just continue to reach for your dreams," she encouraged.

She also addressed legislators in the country's parliament briefly telling them: "I don't know the ins and outs of politics, I care more about children and the development of young people, that is where my Ministry is ... as you all come together to make decisions for the country, I encourage you both, both sides, both parties, I encourage peace, I encourage love, I am peace and I am of love and I am just proud of you both and everybody that is working for the betterment and empowerment of our country."

During her stay in Guyana, Wright also met with President Ali and tour several other sites

as the country celebrates her success in the film industry. She is also set to give an inspirational talk to young actors in Guyana and watch her film with a group of Guyanese.

Wright has so far toured the famous Kaiteur falls as well as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Conservation and Development, experiencing



Letitia Wright at the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Conservation and Development, experiencing Guyana's biodiversity first-hand. (Guyana Tourism image)

Guyana's biodiversity first-hand. She was presented with an honorary doctorate by the University of Guyana as well. Guyana's President Ali invited Wright to visit Guyana again last year after congratulating her in a letter on her successful career and, in particular, her acclaimed role in the Black Panther film and its sequel.

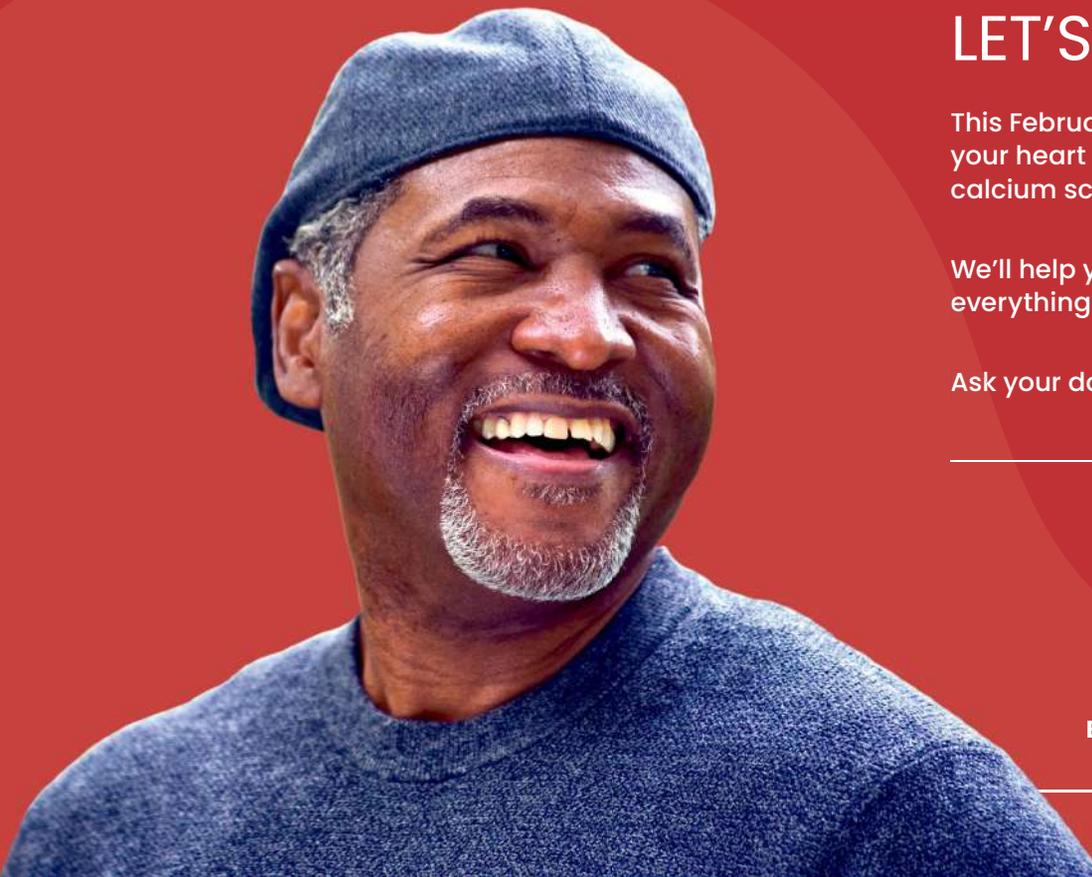
Wright, 29, shot to global fame in 2018 for her performance as Shuri in the Marvel Cinematic Universe film Black Panther. She also received an NAACP Image Award and a SAG Award for the role. Wright also played the character again in Avengers: Infinity War (2018), Avengers: Endgame (2019), and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022).

She began her professional acting career in 2011, playing roles in several British TV series, including Top Boy (2011), Coming Up (2013), Chasing Shadows (2014), Humans (2016), the Doctor Who episode "Face the Raven" (2015) and the Black Mirror episode "Black Museum" (2017). She received

a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or Movie for that movie. In 2019, she received the BAFTA Rising Star Award.

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Spice Up Game Day With These Mouth-Watering Recipes

It's almost the Super Bowl and there's only one thing to make game day a bigger win: delicious game day food!

Looking to add some kick to kick-off? Take flavor and heat off the bench and put them into the game with these recipes from Frank's RedHot, America's number one hot sauce. Whether you're tailgating or hosting from home, Frank's RedHot Original Cayenne Pepper Hot Sauce, made with a premium blend of aged cayenne peppers, is a must-have ingredient.

Classic Buffalo Chicken Wings

If you're someone who agrees that no tailgate or watch party is complete without wings, you're in good company. According to Chef Jordan Carfagno of Frank's RedHot, chicken wings are the brand's

most searched recipe during football season. And it's no wonder, Frank's is the original Buffalo wings sauce flavor. Anyone looking to kick their wings up a notch can try this mouth-watering recipe for a classic take on wings, and it can be made in the oven at home, or in an air fryer if you're tailgating.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup Frank's RedHot Original Cayenne Pepper Hot Sauce
- 2- and 1/2-pounds chicken wing pieces

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Mix butter and RedHot Sauce in medium bowl; set aside.
2. Arrange wings on large foil-

lined pan. Bake on lowest oven rack for 30 minutes or until crispy, turning once.

3. Toss wings in sauce mixture until well coated. Serve with blue cheese and celery, if desired.

Buffalo Chicken Dip

Chef Carfagno says dip recipes are gaining popularity this year, and this spicy creamy Buffalo chicken dip is the MVP of them all. Make it in the oven at home or plug in an instant pot or slow cooker for on-the-go prep.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cups Frank's RedHot Original Cayenne Pepper Hot

Sauce

- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 1/2 cup blue cheese crumbles

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Spoon into a shallow 1-quart baking dish.
2. Bake 20 minutes or until mixture is heated through; stir. Sprinkle with green onions, if desired, and serve with chips, crackers and cut up veggies.

Check out frankredhot.com for more game-day recipes and inspiration.

This football season, bring your A-game to your tailgate



Make Classic Buffalo Chicken Wings easier this Super Bowl.

spread by adding the perfect blend of flavor and heat to classic fan favorites.

- StatePoint



South Beach Wine And Food Festival Returns To Miami

The Food Network's South Beach Wine and Food Festival, (SOBEWFF), returns to Miami from Feb. 23-26th in Miami Beach. This year's schedule is filled with events for attendees to have an amazing culinary and wine tasting experience.

The Goya Foods' Grand Tasting Village featuring Publix Culinary Demonstrations has offerings from more than 50 restaurants and an array of wines and libations from Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. Costs for Saturday and Sunday is US \$450 or \$265 per day. Among the Black chefs who will be in the Village are:

- Findley Charles of Fin's Kitchen Food Truck;
- Jumoke Jackson of Soulful Biscuit;
- Chef Nat Calderon of Chef Corey's Kitchen;
- Chef Marcella Joseph of Mobile Soul Catering;
- Jelisa Montalvo of Dorothy's Catering 2;
- Kendra McKintosh of Cooking With Kendra; Kelly Hunter of Hunter's;
- Rosalie Picard & Turkessa Wright of Chuchu Macarons;
- Corey Rice of Chef Corey's Kitchen;

- Maurice Randall of A Taste Of Elegance;
- Deborah Williams of Chewy Suz Sweet Treats;
- Chef Vernetta Stewart;
- Natacha Suplice Henry of I Can Cook 2;
- Jerald Washington of Aja' Catering and;
- and Chef Anthony Wilson of Miami

For more information on events and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.sobewff.org>.



The World's Largest Cruise Ship Spends \$1 Million A Week On Groceries

The world's largest cruise ship – The Symphony of the Seas – shells out more than 30,000 meals a day for over 6,600 passengers who board each week, according to an Insider report.

Passengers aboard the Royal Caribbean cruise ship may eat anywhere up to eight times a day – giving the staff a hefty load of food options to produce.

"You have to calculate that is breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus snacks, plus at night, plus all 24 hours, food all around, and that never stops," Allan Gentile, development chef of Culinary Innovation, told Insider. "The quantity is crazy."

Jaret de Silva, the ship's inventory manager, has a \$1 million grocery budget each week to stock up the ship's 23 restaurants. That usually results in 30 trucks with 500 pallets worth of inventory, equating to more than 600,000 pounds of food and drinks, brought to the ship in the Miami port on a weekly basis.



Some of the dishes served on the Symphony of The Seas. (Royal Caribbean image)

Kitchens on the ship operate nonstop and are comprised of a culinary team of more than 1,000 people who cook for the guests while the boat is continuously moved by waves.

At the bottom of the ship, there are prep kitchens - including the butcher, veggie cutting room, and fish-thawing box - where food items are assembled. From the prep kitchens, food is then moved to the main galleys before being cooked and served to patrons.

There are 36 kitchens, also known as "galleys," on the ship. Twelve of them are specialty restaurants. And across each of them, there are approximately 100 different menus each week developed at Royal Caribbean's Miami headquarters.

The restaurants cater to all different price points, to match the ship's wide range of passengers.

"We had the penthouse, we had the suite, we had the main restaurant, we had a specialty restaurant. We have all the choices. So, we tried to please everybody, to make sure everybody finds what they're looking for. You need to have organization in the kitchen. So, this all comes with experience to work in the cruise line," Rijo was quoted as saying.

- Rewritten from *The Insider*



Save Valentine's Day With These Last-Minute Gift Ideas



classic options, like flowers, you might consider treating your loved one to their favourite meal via a delivery service like Door Dash or Uber Eats, or sending them a heartfelt, customized video greeting with SmashUps from americangreetings.com.

Valentine's Day is an age-old tradition, and it falls on the same day each year, but that doesn't necessarily mean you've planned ahead for the occasion.

The good news? There are more thoughtful ways to spontaneously express your love than ever before, thanks to new digital tools. In addition to the

If Valentine's Day catches you by surprise this year, fear not. These days, meaningful, creative gift options that can be delivered in hours, or even seconds, abound.

- StatePoint



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HEALTH



Dementia Prevalence Set To Increase In The Caribbean

Despite recent statistics showing that dementia prevalence is set to increase in the Caribbean by 155 per cent by 2050, regional progress in tackling the neurodegenerative condition is far too slow. The latest estimates show that there will be over 740,000 people living with dementia in the Caribbean by 2050.

That's the word from the Alzheimer's Disease International, (ADI), the global federation for 105 Alzheimer's and dementia associations across the world.

Research has found that the greatest risk factors for dementia in the Caribbean include Cardiovascular health, diabetes, family history, older

age, education. Further, women with lower levels of education in rural areas are overrepresented in dementia statistics in the Caribbean.

Daisy Acosta, co-founder of The Asociacion Dominicana de Alzheimer and former Chair of ADI, says that the issue of dementia in the Caribbean is growing.

"Dementia is a real problem in our Caribbean countries. By 2050 almost 750,000 people will be living with dementia in region," Acosta said.

"Governments are not paying enough attention to because it is often still wrongly considered a normal part of ageing. Well IT IS NOT! Key policies can be taken that can help delay or

reduce up to 40 per cent of the number of cases of dementia in the future. I urge our governments to invest now to save later!"

The ADI is calling for the public across the Caribbean to urge their governments to take urgent action on dementia.

Only 16 per cent of Caribbean countries and territories have made progress in developing a National Dementia Plan, most of which have inadequate funding. While a few countries in the region, like the Dominican Republic and Cuba have implemented National Dementia Plans, unfortunately most are without adequate funding.

ADI has teamed up with

Alzheimer's associations in Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Grenada, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago to launch a regional campaign 'What's Your Plan' (#WhatsYourPlan).

But the Caribbean ADI members participating in the #WhatsYourPlan campaign are yet to have any fully funded, implemented National Dementia Plan in their countries.

ADI is calling on people living in Caribbean countries participating in the #WhatsYourPlan campaign to urge their governments to develop a National

Dementia Plan that features, improvements in care for those living with dementia, support for carers and to implement key policies to help delay or reduce up to 40 percent of the possible number of cases of dementia in the future.

Risk reduction should be designed with a life-course approach in mind, targeting both older and younger populations, with a focus on the modifiable 12 risk factors estimated to contribute to 40 percent of the cases of those living with dementia.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Cancer Is Second Leading Cause Of Deaths In The Caribbean

Cancer continues to be the second leading cause of deaths in the Caribbean according Dr. Joy St. John, Executive Director at the Caribbean Public Health Agency, (CARPHA). The disease account for a fifth of all deaths.

In 2020, over 100,000 new cancer cases and over 65,000 cancer deaths in the Caribbean were estimated. Female breast cancer accounted for the most cancer cases in the Caribbean at 15%, while lung cancer caused the most cancer deaths at 12%. Prostate, colorectal and stomach cancers are also common.

"Up to 50% of cancer cases are preventable, and 27% of cancers relate to alcohol and tobacco use. People can reduce their risk of getting certain types of cancer by adopting healthy lifestyles and practicing suitable health seeking behaviours," stated Dr. St. John.

She suggests adopting healthier behaviours can help to reduce your risk of cancer. "The less alcohol you drink, the lower your risk of cancer," she said while suggesting people avoid tobacco products and exposure to second-hand smoke; increase physical activity and eat foods low in salt, sugar and harmful fats.

Worldwide, cancer is the second leading cause of death, causing one-sixth of all deaths. In 2020, there were 19.3 million new cancer cases, with breast, lung, prostate, skin and colon cancers being the most common; and there were 10 million cancer deaths in that same year.

In Florida, there's an average of 115,000 new cancers diagnosed and reported each year to the state-wide cancer registry, the Florida Cancer Data System.



Florida To Open Medical Marijuana License Applications



Florida health officials will accept applications for 22 medical marijuana licenses in late April, in a long-awaited move.

An emergency rule about the licenses generated an immediate buzz in the cannabis industry, as the number of licenses in the state will double. The rule came more than six years after Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment broadly authorizing medical marijuana and after

lawmakers in 2017 approved a framework for the industry.

The Florida Department of Health in December set up the process to apply for new licenses, with applications accepted in "batching cycles." Under the emergency rule, 22 licenses will be available, adding to the 22 currently licensed operators. The department will accept applications between April 24th and April 28th.

The application window will be the first major

opportunity for newcomers to the state's cannabis market to vie for licenses since the 2017 legislation passed. An earlier round of licenses was based on a 2014 law that legalized non-euphoric cannabis for a limited number of patients.

Investors and marijuana operators for years have viewed Florida as potentially one of the country's premiere landscapes to set up shop.



Medical Educational Loan Debt Relief Application Now Open

The Florida Department of Health has launched the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) portal for the 2023 application cycle. The FRAME program provides medical education loan debt relief to health care professionals practicing in less populated areas of the state.

In July 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature directed nearly \$6.6 million in funding to expand access to primary care health services utilizing the FRAME program. FRAME encourages qualified health care professionals to practice

in underserved areas across the state, by providing annual payments intended to offset the loans and educational expenses leading to medical or nursing degrees.

Through the FRAME program, physicians, physician assistants, and nursing professionals may be eligible for an annual award of up to \$20,000 toward the remaining principal of their educational loans. To be eligible, providers must have a primary care specialty and currently provide services within a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or statutorily specified

facility type.

Applications for FRAME funding will be prioritized based on a combined factor of direct patient care hours provided in a HPSA, the HPSA score, and the length of continued service of the applicant in the HPSA(s). Funding will be distributed by prioritization score.

Applications can be submitted on the FRAMEworks portal at fdohframe.com/s/ or by mail during the application cycle between February 1, 2023, and March 31, 2023. Award determinations will be made by June 1, 2023.



Final Expense Insurance

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

Now is the time for us to consider a final expense plan, which would eliminate the confusion and headache of funding funeral expenses from our savings.

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Owner of Twisted Soul Cookhouse
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Countdown Begins To Trinidad's Carnival



It's carnival time in Trinidad.

It's almost time for another Trinidad carnival this year and if you are going or still planning on going, here are some fast facts you should know about this year's carnival.

DATE: The event, known as 'The Greatest Show On Earth,' is officially set for Mon, Feb 20, 2023 - Tue, Feb 21, 2023 but it's always a non-stop party all month and especially that weekend, especially beginning on Friday night, Feb. 17th.

GETTING THERE: Caribbean Airlines has announced an expansion of flight services for the festival. The carrier is now operating an additional flight between Orlando, FL, and Trinidad on Feb. 14. The flights are now open for sale, the company said. Flights and packages from Miami and Fort Lauderdale are already sold out on Expedia from Feb. 17-24th.

To book a flight to the carnival from South Florida on Expedia you would have to choose Feb. 10th to the 21st and a round-trip flight was around US\$1,100 as of Jan. 30th. Flights plus accommodation from Feb. 10th to 21st has limited availability if booking from Miami on Expedia with costs ranging from US \$2,200 and up.

On AirBnB, condos are renting at over US \$200 per night in Port-of-Spain for Feb. 10th-21st.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Carnival Monday opens with J'Ouvert at 4:00 a.m., where revelers parade through the streets immersed in paint, grease and mud, partying until sunrise. Later on Monday, and all day on Carnival Tuesday, thousands of masqueraders flood the streets throughout the islands in bold, colorful, vibrant costumes, dancing through the parade routes to the exhilarating sounds of soca, steelpan and calypso music.

Note that organizers have cancelled this year's International Soca Monarch, (ISM), event. This came after soca star Machel Montano announced the date of his own concert, always one of the hottest tickets in town, as "Fantastic Friday," the Friday before Carnival, a slot traditionally claimed by ISM. Geoffrey Wharton-Lake and

Ricky Ragoonanan, directors of Caribbean Prestige Foundation, which organizes and promotes ISM, cited financial constraints as the reason for the cancellation.

Other events from Friday, Feb 17th include according to TnTisland.com the following:

Fri. 17th Feb. - Re-enactment of Canboulay Riots & Dragon Presentation at Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain; 6pm.

Fri. 17th Feb. - Kaiso Showcase's Tent at Palms Club, San Fernando.

Fri. 17th Feb. - Kalypso Revue Tent at SWWTU Hall, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain; 8 pm.

Fri. 17th Feb. - Machel Montano 40 concert at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain.

Sat. 18th Feb. - National Panorama Large Conventional

Bands Finals at Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain; 7 pm.

Sat. 18th Feb. - Intellectual Chutney Monarch Finals in honour of Black Stalin (Dr. Leroy Calliste) and Sundar Popo (Sunilal Popo Bahora) at Skinner Park, San Fernando.

Sat. 18th Feb. - Kalypso Revue Tent at SWWTU Hall, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain; 8 pm.

Sun. 19th Feb. - J'Ouvert in Roxborough, Tobago.

Sun. 19th Feb. - National Calypso Monarch Final at Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain; 7:00 pm.

Sun. 19th Feb. - Roxborough Kiddies Carnival at Cyd Grey Complex

Tobago.

Mon. 20th Feb. - J'Ouvert 2023 - all regions - East, North, South, Central and Tobago; 4 am.

Mon. 20th Feb. - Regional Pan on D Road - all regions - East, North, South, Central and Tobago (Crown Point and Roxborough).

Mon. 20th Feb. - Traditional Individuals Competition & Stick Fighting Presentation at Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain; 9 am.

Mon. 20th Feb. - Carnival Monday - Parade of the Bands - all regions - East, North, South, Central and Tobago.

Mon. 20th Feb. - Brass Bacchanal 3rd Edition at Festival City, Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain; 6:30 pm. (10 Bands will battle for the first prize of \$100,000.)

Mon. 20th Feb. - Carnival Monday Night Mas

Tue. 21st Feb. - Carnival Tuesday

Tue. 21st Feb. - J'Ouvert in Calder Hill, Tobago.

Tue. 21st Feb. - Carnival Tuesday - Parade of the Bands - all regions - East, North, South, Central and Tobago.

Tue. 21st Feb. - Regional Pan on D Road - all regions - East, North, South, Central and Tobago.

Tue. 21st Feb. - Pan Trinbago Las Lap at Western Main Road, St. James.

GETTING AROUND: - For Carnival 2023, T&T rideshare and courier service provider DeliverMe TT says it will keep its rates reasonable and competitive for its local clientele as well as the influx of persons coming into the twin island republic, even as other similar taxi and rideshare entities increase their pricing. But you can pre-book a ride via its easy to maneuver, user-friendly app or by calling the office at **868-683-RIDE (7433)**



After The Pandemic - A Visit To Jamaica

BY DR. WINSTON A. WHYTE

It had been 3 years since I visited Jamaica and I didn't know what to expect. How much did the pandemic influence the economic, social and education function of the country? What changes would be visually evident? These were the questions that entered my mind prior to my recent visit to Jamaica - post pandemic.

To my surprise, the country appeared unchanged, and the people remained the same. I first headed to St. Thomas to visit Bath Primary School, which received 24 boxes of school supplies during the Pandemic.

The road to Morant Bay was horrible as it was being resurfaced and prepared for a new highway from Kingston through St. Thomas; and it took us twice the time to reach our destination.

But once we were at Bath, it was as if time stood still as the terrain was lush with vegetation, the river water was running, and the animals grazed peacefully in the green fields.

The elementary students were crisply dressed in their beautiful school uniform, displayed impeccable manners and the environment was clean and fresh.



The road to Morant Bay was horrible as it was being resurfaced and prepared for a new highway from Kingston through St. Thomas and took us twice the time to reach our destination. (Contributed image: Dr. Winston A. Whyte)

Six miles up the hills we visited my wife's elementary school, Sunning Hill, where Teacher Givans, her father, was the principal when she was a child, and they lived on the compound.

I experienced seeing the nostalgia on her face as she videotaped the area so she could share with her 5 siblings and 6 cousins in the US, who also lived in the community. I saw the euphoria when she greeted and hugged Tuts, a childhood friend who now taught at the school. The humble, simple, peaceful environment made me feel like moving to Sunning Hill, St. Thomas to continue our retirement.

In Kingston, I had the honor of presenting a check for US\$35,000 or J\$ 5.25 million to Calabar High School on behalf of the Florida Chapter of the

Calabar Alumni Association.

This was done at a Founder's Day function, celebrating the schools 110 years of existence. This money will be used to address the school's Health and Wellness Program by specifically providing meals for needy students.

The next day we visited Calabar, driving through the impressive entrance to park and interact with some well-groomed, neatly dressed and articulate young men socializing in groups, before entering the Chapel for an assembly.

Ms. Jarrett, the guidance counselor seemed to be the most popular person as the boys all

rallied for her attention. It was my time to be nostalgic. Ms. Jarrett invited us to her office, and it was there she introduced us to a failing student who was about to be kicked out of school and his frustrated father who was trying to save him from being a part of the many dropouts on the streets.

My wife and I, along with my friend Dr. Winston Newell,



Once we were at Bath, it was as if time stood still as the terrain was lush with vegetation, the river water was running, and the animals grazed peacefully in the green fields. (Contributed image: Dr. Winston A. Whyte)

a dentist and old boy, became his mentors, as a weeping father expressed his gratitude. This is one student who will not become part of the statistics if we can help it.

Lastly, we drove a mile away to The Queens High School, which was my wife's alma mater, and were in awe to see the beautiful edifice that

housed some beautifully dressed young ladies.

We were attracted to the well-manicured and maintained buildings and lawns as we were given a tour, and very impressed with the students as we randomly talked to some highly intelligent young ladies.

As an educator who spent over 25 years in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools System, I could not help but compare the students and the environment of my little island schools to those in Miami. Given the limited resources, the grave teacher shortage, and dire conditions from which our Jamaican students come, I lift my hat to the administrators, teachers, students, and parents in Jamaica.

Your hard work and maximization of resources is noticeable, and you are to be commended for an awesome job. May God continue to Bless our island and the children who are our future.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Winston A. Whyte, is a retired Jamaican educator and part of the Florida Chapter of the Calabar Alumni Association. He recently visited the island, three years after the pandemic.





Two Caribbean Roots Players In This Year's Super Bowl

Two Caribbean roots players will likely play in Super Bowl LVII, set for Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Arizona as the Kansas Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles. Both players are part of the Eagles team. They are:

1: Linval Joseph

Defensive tackle for the Philadelphia Eagles, Linval Clement Joseph, was born in Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. He played college football at East Carolina after attending Santa Fe High School in Alachua, Florida. He was drafted by the New York Giants in the second round, 46th overall of the 2010 NFL Draft. Joseph, 34, has also played for the Minnesota Vikings and Los Angeles Chargers.

On March 30, 2020, Joseph



Linval Joseph of the Philadelphia Eagles was born in St. Croix. (Philadelphia Eagles image)



Robert Quinn of the Philadelphia Eagles has roots in Puerto Rico. (Photo by Mitchell Leff/Getty Images)

signed a two-year, \$17 million contract with the Los Angeles Chargers. But on November 16, 2022, Joseph agreed to a one-year deal with the Philadelphia Eagles. During the first quarter of the 2022 season NFC Championship Game, Joseph recovered a key fumble forced by linebacker

Haason Reddick, a play which led to significant injury of the arm of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy.

2: Robert Quinn

Robert Quinn, 32, a defensive end for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, has roots in Puerto Rico. Quinn's mother is from Puerto Rico and his sister is Olympic gold medalist and Puerto Rican hurdler Jasmine Camacho-Quinn.

Quinn, who was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles in exchange for a fourth-round selection in the 2023 NFL Draft on October 26,

2022, was only activated on January 7, 2023. He is an alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he played for the North Carolina Tar Heels football team.

WHERE TO VIEW SUPER BOWL LVII: TV: Fox or Stream: fuboTV

KICKOFF TIME: 6:30 p.m. ET.
HALFTIME SHOW: Caribbean

born star Rihanna will be performing this year's halftime show while Caribbean roots Emmy-winning star Sheryl Lee Ralph, whose mother was born in Jamaica, will be singing the Black national anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" ahead of kickoff.

- NewsAmericasNow.com

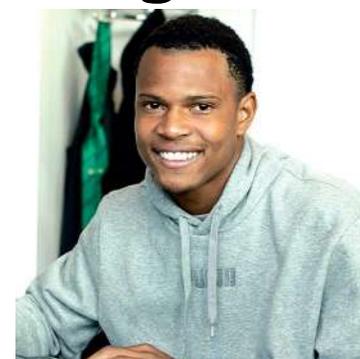


Jamaican Reggae Boyz Signs With Belgian Pro League Club

Tarick Ximines, a former student at Jamaica College has been signed by Cercle Brugge K.S.V. of the Belgian Pro League.

Ximines signed a two-and-a-half-year deal with Cercle Brugge K.S.V., the club announced on social media. Ximines, 18, played a vital role in Jamaica College's success in the recently concluded schoolboy football season which saw them win the Manning Cup and Champions Cup double.

He also played for two Jamaica Premier League teams Harbour View and Mount Pleasant, scoring one goal in 16 games for the former and one goal in five appearances for the latter. Ximines has also made two appearances for the Reggae Boyz and became the youngest ever Reggae Boy to feature for



Tarick Ximines is now with Cercle Brugge K.S.V. of the Belgian Pro League.

the senior team in a Concacaf World Cup Qualifier at 17 years and 5 months when he made his debut against Canada at the BMO Field on March 27.

- Rewritten from SportsMax.com



Charlotte FC Host Celebration of Life For Caribbean Roots Soccer Star Killed In Florida

Major League Soccer team, Charlotte FC, recently celebrated the life of Caribbean roots soccer star and team player, Anton Walkes, who died on Jan. 19th following a boating accident in South Florida.

Stories and tears flowed as Walkes, 25, was remembered in an emotional hour-long celebration at Charlotte FC's Bank of America Stadium on January 24th.

Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber, close friend Mohamed Khalifa, Charlotte FC player Andre Shinyashiki, head coach Christian Lattanzio and technical director Bobby Belair spoke about the impact Walkes made on and off the field – as a player, teammate and friend.

"Unlike many of you, I wasn't fortunate enough to spend a lot of time with Anton. But as I've read so many tributes and listened to those who knew him as a father, as a son, as a teammate and a friend, one thing was abundantly clear: Anton was a good man," Garber said. "And he represented everything that's great about our sport, and everything that's great about our league. We're a league where players are more than just players. You care about each other not just as devoted teammates, but as partners that support and love each other on and off the field."

Walkes was remembered as a loving and loyal friend, someone who always had his teammate's back. An emotional Shinyashiki spoke about how Walkes sprinted across the field to support midfielder Derrick Jones following a hard tackle and remembered his message after Shinyashiki scored against Nashville SC.

"Anton grabbed my jersey and my face, and said, 'Kiss this badge, man. This is our club. Our house,'" said Shinyashiki, who joined teammates in wearing Walkes' black and mint green No. 5 jersey. "We aren't letting anybody come in here and



Caribbean roots soccer star Anton Walkes was remembered in Charlotte days after he was killed in a boating crash in South Florida. (PHOTO: Matt Kelley | Credit: AP)

disrespect us.' And I just wish I could hear you say that again one more time."

While Walkes won't be in the Charlotte FC XI, head coach Christian Lattanzio said the defender will continue to have an impact on the second-year club. His legacy will live on.

"I'm not going to talk about him in the past tense. I said to the boys: 'I'm always going to talk about him in the present tense because I want Anton to be with us,'" Lattanzio said. "I feel his presence and that gives me strength."

"... The promise I can make on behalf of all of us, the coaching staff, the club, football players is that we will honor him on a daily basis. He will be with us, home and away, and the extra strength that we will have this season, without a doubt, will come from Anton."

Walkes was also honored in video tributes from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, former clubs Tottenham Hotspur and Portsmouth, as well as close friends from England.

Walkes was born in Lewisham, London, United Kingdom in 1997 to a Bajan father

and a Welsh mother. He developed his soccer talent through the Tottenham academy before debuting as a pro in 2016. He then joined Atlanta United ahead of their MLS expansion season in 2017 and spent three seasons with the Five Stripes before being selected in the 2021 MLS Expansion Draft by Charlotte FC, leading to 93 MLS games played.

- MLS Soccer.com



Brian Lara Returns To The West Indies Cricket Team

West Indies legend Brian Charles Lara has returned to the Windies team, but in a different capacity.

The batting legend and former West Indies test captain has joined Cricket West Indies as a performance mentor, the regional sports governing body said. The 51-year-old will work with all CWI's international teams "in providing players with tactical advice and improving their game sense" and will also provide developmental support for the West Indies Academy.

Lara will also engage in "strategic planning" for the ICC World Cup, collaborating closely with Director of Cricket, Jimmy



Brian Lara is back with the West Indies team. (Twitter image)

Adams.

"Having spent time with the players and coaches in Australia and in discussions

with CWI, I really believe that I can help the players with their mental approach to the game and with their tactics to be more successful," Lara said. "I'm looking forward to joining the group in Zimbabwe and the opportunity to work with other West Indies teams later in the year."

Lara is currently with the West Indies squad for the two-Test tour of Zimbabwe, marking his first assignment in the new role.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Find ways to celebrate this month and all year round at www.multiculturalmiami.com

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