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Paris... Page 16
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Jamaicans
Think She Can
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Vice President Kamala Harris waves as she boards Air force 2.
(CREDIT: Stephanie Scarbrough/Pool via AFP)

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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders concluded their summit on July 30th without finalizing arrangements for the free and full movement of CARICOM nationals. The leaders had hoped to implement the process by the end of March, following their summit in Guyana earlier this year.

CARICOM Chairman and Grenada's Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, stated at the news conference marking the end of the summit that "we are not there yet," and emphasized ongoing engagements to address outstanding issues.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley had previously indicated that the community was on target to achieve free movement by March 31, 2024. However, unresolved policy issues and the reluctance of some member states, including Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, and Bermuda, have hindered progress. The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) aims to allow free movement of goods, skills, labor, and services across the region.

Meanwhile, renowned Guyanese cricketer Sir Clive Lloyd, and Jamaican regionalist and former CARICOM Secretary-General, Roderick Rainford, were conferred with the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC), the region's highest honor. The ceremony took place at Charter Hall, St George's University during a culturally rich opening ceremony for the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government in

Grenada, on July 28, 2024.

HAITI

Edgard Leblanc Fils, head of Haiti's Transitional President Council (TPC), has announced that he expects presidential and legislative elections to be held by the end of 2025. Speaking at a news conference following the 47th regular meeting of CARICOM leaders, Fils expressed gratitude to regional countries for their efforts in stabilizing Haiti, where security has been a significant concern since the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7, 2021.

"We express our gratitude to CARICOM and particularly the Eminent Persons Group (EPG)," Fils said, highlighting their role in negotiating with former Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry's government and various opposition groups. These negotiations led to the formation of the transitional government and the appointment of a new prime minister.

GUYANA

The Government of Guyana has joined the international chorus of concern, emphasizing the importance of electoral integrity. "Elections are about people exercising their constitutional right to elect a government of their choice in a free, fair and transparent process," a statement from Guyana read. "It behoves all to ensure the integrity of that process through the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and strict adherence to the rule of law,



Sir Clive Lloyd accepts the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC) from the Chairman of CARICOM, Dickon Mitchell, on July 28, 2024 in St. George's Grenada. (CARICOM image)

including the rules governing elections, to guarantee respect for the will of the people."

Guyana further expressed support for a thorough examination of the election results, stating, "Guyana therefore supports the call for a transparent process of verification of the will of the Venezuelan people as exercised on July 28, 2024.

DOMINICA

The Roosevelt Skerrit-led government of Dominica has revoked the citizenship of 68 individuals who were granted citizenship through the country's Citizenship by Investment (CBI) program between 2020 and 2022. The revocation notice, signed by Minister for Citizenship Miriam Blanchard on May 26, was published in the gazette on June 6. Dominica's Citizenship Act allows for revocation on two grounds: obtaining citizenship through fraud or false representation, and

if it is deemed not conducive for a person to continue as a citizen. The list includes nationals from Nigeria, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, and Afghanistan.

ST. MAARTEN

Authorities in St. Maarten have detained a suspect in connection with the recent shooting of politician Olivier Arrindell, which resulted in the death of his wife, Sabine, and injured party member Laurence Lake. The incident, which occurred on July 17, shocked the usually peaceful Dutch Caribbean territory.

Police and prosecutors have called the arrest "a significant step" but have withheld further details due to the ongoing investigation. Arrindell, leader of the Oualichi Movement for Change, believes the attack was politically motivated, stating it happened during a meeting arranged to collect "confidential information."

Arrindell's 10-year-old daughter, who was in the car during the shooting, was unharmed. The shooting has drawn widespread condemnation from politicians as St. Maarten prepares for snap elections in late August.

And the Sint Maarten government has taken decisive action following a shooting incident that occurred last Sunday. Meschach Emmanuel, known as 'Plumpy Boss', a Trinidad-based artist recently charged with gang membership in his home country, sustained a gunshot wound to the head while performing.

Sint Maarten officials stated that they did not authorize Emmanuel's entry into the country and have since facilitated his evacuation. In response to the incident, relevant government departments have begun discussions, investigations, and agreements to enhance public safety policies and prevent similar occurrences.

"Ensuring the safety and security of our citizens and visitors is of paramount importance," said Prime Minister Luc Mercelina. "We

are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement effective measures that will protect our community."

According to a statement from the government, Mercelina, who also serves as acting Minister of Health, coordinated Emmanuel's air ambulance evacuation to Trinidad.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The Antigua and Barbuda government confirmed a lawsuit filed by the former owners of the super yacht Alfa Nero, sold by the government for US\$40 million. Prime Minister Gaston Browne stated the yacht, sold following an Act of Parliament, was "owned by the government."

The proceeds are deposited in a bank, but the former owners are now claiming the funds. The government deemed the lawsuit frivolous and affirmed it would not hinder fulfilling obligations incurred during its ownership of the yacht.

CURACAO

Prime Minister Gilmar Pisas says Curacao's accession to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as an associate member "is a testament to our shared vision of a united, prosperous, and resilient Caribbean Community." He said that the Dutch-speaking country, which celebrated its 73rd anniversary of constitutional change on July 2 last year, became part of the Netherlands Antilles, which was dismantled in 2010 and the "new" constitutional country of Curaçao came into being.

St. Kitts/Nevis

Twenty-eight-year-old Shaquille Liburd of Conaree Village, St. Kitts, has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for the murder of Constance Thompson. The sentencing, which took place today, marks the culmination of a case that has gripped the nation since the crime was committed over five years ago.

Liburd was found guilty of Thompson's murder on December 22, 2023, following a trial in the High Court. The crime, which occurred on April 29, 2019, sent shockwaves through the community and sparked a lengthy investigation.

Justice Iain Morley KC, who presided over the case, handed down the substantial sentence, emphasizing the severity of the crime. The court has stipulated that time spent on remand will be counted towards Liburd's sentence. Additionally, he will be eligible for a one-third remission of his sentence for good behavior.

- Compiled from CMC News, AP & Loop Caribbean



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Will Kamala Harris Become The US' First Black, Caribbean And Asian American President? Jamaicans Believe She Can



Democratic presidential candidate, U.S. Vice President, Caribbean American Kamala Harris, speaking at a campaign rally at the Georgia State Convocation Center on July 30, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia. (Megan Varner | Getty Images)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

On August 1st, celebrated by Jamaicans as Emancipation Day, Jamaicans Marlon Hill and Delroy Redway were in different parts of the world but had United States vice president Kamala Harris on their minds. Hill, a lawyer and key figure in South Florida's Jamaican community, was preparing to launch a campaign there for Harris, the official Democratic nominee for US president.

Redway was in Browns Town, Jamaica, the rural farming area in St. Ann parish where Harris' father, Professor Donald Harris, was born and raised. An emeritus professor in economics at Stanford University, his family still has a presence there, through cousins who are involved in commerce and philanthropy. Harris' mother Shyamala, who was from India, died in 2009 at age 70. She met Donald Harris while they were students at University of California, Berkeley during the early 1960s. The vice president's story, Hill noted, is part of what makes her appealing.

"It is one that many Jamaican and West Indian voters will connect to," he told Caribbean Today. "This family heritage will, at a minimum, inform her interaction with the Caribbean region and provide a basis of familiarity in proposing policies that may benefit the region, such as, immigration, small business development, climate resilience, trade development, among other issues."

At the time Hill spoke to Caribbean Today, various polls showed a tight race between the 59-year-old US Veep and former president Donald J. Trump, the Republican nominee. They show customary swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada and Florida as toss-ups.

Hill is part of a Caribbean Diaspora team that has supported Harris since President Joe Biden announced on July 21st that he would not seek re-election and endorsed her as his successor.

"On August 1st, Emancipation Day, we (hosted) a national call with Caribbean-American leaders to engage and inspire voters to donate, volunteer and prepare their voting plan. At the end of the day, this will be a race of Olympic

proportions for the office of the presidency," he said.

Jamaican Dale Holness, former mayor of Broward County, is also part of a team aggressively campaigning for Harris in South Florida. "Everybody is excited and ready to go to work. There has been a groundswell of support among Jamaicans and other Caribbean nationals, with people calling friends and family members and getting them involved in the campaign," he said. "Based on reactions that I have seen, there is a momentum building with the Jamaican and Caribbean communities for the Harris for President campaign."

Redway, 74, has known the Harris family since his childhood. He recalls Donald being one of three brothers - the others being Newton and Reginald, who made their living from quarry mining, cattle farming and a bakery. Sherman, Donald's nephew, operates a block-making business in Browns Town.

A former councilor, the Jamaican equivalent of a Congressman, Redway has never met Donald Harris, but recalls hearing stories of him visiting Browns Town with his two daughters, Kamala and Maya. He described the mood in the community of 20,000 as excited.

"They are confident that she will make it through to be president, we are rooting for her," Redway stated. "For Brown's Town, it would be a vindication that although we are a small community, we are united when it comes to seeing one of our own advance in life. Browns Town is an example of that."

Hill has been a lawyer for 30 years and seen his share of political campaigns. Prior to Harris' emergence, the most significant of those was in 2008 when a little-known senator from Chicago named Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States. He is determined to help make Kamala Harris the first female leader of the country.

"There are some similarities, but they have different stories, and this is definitely a unique moment in time and history," said Hill. "Voters are in a different mindset and most are not interested in going back but looking forward to a future of stability and unity. We will know on the night of November 5th."

A new national survey by Florida Atlantic University and Mainstreet Research USA reveals that U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and former U.S. President Donald Trump are in a statistical tie in a 2024 presidential election matchup. The poll also highlights complex views on democracy among American voters.

Harris and Trump are both at 46% among all voters in the latest Florida Atlantic University

Political Communication and Public Opinion Research Lab (PolCom Lab) and Mainstreet Research USA poll. Diving into key demographic groups reveals striking differences:

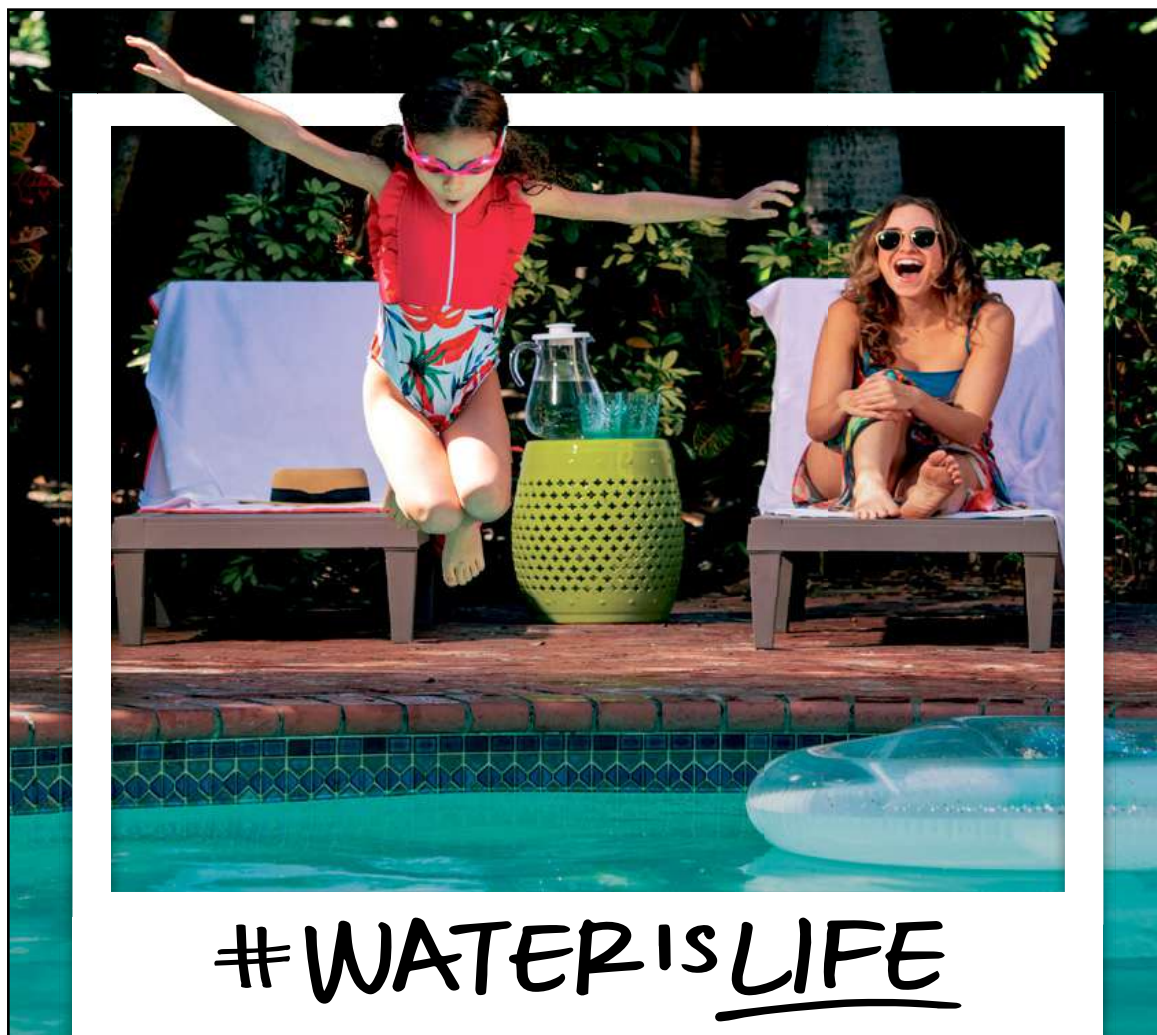
- Harris holds a strong lead among women with 49% compared to Trump's 42%.
- Among Black voters, Harris commands a significant advantage

at 67%, while Trump trails at 22%.

- In the Hispanic demographic, Harris secures 54% support, leaving Trump with 37%.
- Trump leads with 18 to 35-year-old voters, 45% to 36%.
- When Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is included, Harris has a 1% lead among all voters, which is within the margin of error.

"While voters may be

responding to the prospect of a new candidate in these results, they are also not sure what the Harris campaign messaging is," said Luzmarina Garcia Ph.D., assistant professor of political science at FAU. "But the lead up to the election will clarify that picture."



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Undocumented Immigrants, Including Caribbean Nationals, Paid \$96.7 Billion In Taxes In 2022

A new study by the Washington-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, (ITEP), has found that undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants paid a substantial \$96.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2022. The report, released on Tuesday, highlights the significant contributions of these immigrants to the United States' public revenue.

According to the study, \$59.4 billion of the total tax amount was paid to the federal government, while the remaining \$37.3 billion went to state and local governments. The report indicates that undocumented immigrants paid an average of \$8,889 per person in taxes in 2022. This translates to \$8.9 billion in additional tax revenue for every one million undocumented immigrants



Immigrants and activists rally in downtown Austin, Texas. (Credit: Todd Wiseman/Texas Tribune)

residing in the country.

The study notes that more than

a third of the tax dollars paid by undocumented immigrants go toward payroll taxes dedicated to funding programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance, which these workers are barred from accessing. Specifically, undocumented immigrants contributed \$25.7 billion to Social Security taxes, \$6.4 billion to Medicare taxes, and \$1.8 billion to unemployment insurance taxes in 2022.

At the state and local levels, the report finds that 46 percent (\$15.1 billion) of the tax payments made by undocumented immigrants are through sales and excise taxes levied on their purchases. Additionally, 31 percent (\$10.4 billion) came from property taxes, which include taxes levied on homeowners and renters, and 21 percent (\$7.0 billion) from

personal and business income taxes.

The study highlights that six states raised more than \$1 billion each in tax revenue from undocumented immigrants. These states are California (\$8.5 billion), Texas (\$4.9 billion), New York (\$3.1 billion), Florida (\$1.8 billion), Illinois (\$1.5 billion), and New Jersey (\$1.3 billion).

In a majority of states, undocumented immigrants pay higher state and local tax rates than the top 1 percent of households. The report also emphasizes that income tax payments by undocumented immigrants are affected by laws requiring them to pay more than similarly situated U.S. citizens. Often, undocumented immigrants do not claim refunds due to lack of awareness, concern about their immigration

status, or insufficient access to tax preparation assistance.

The report suggests that providing work authorization for undocumented immigrants would significantly increase their tax contributions, as their wages would rise and their rates of tax compliance would improve. Under a scenario where work authorization is granted to all current undocumented immigrants, the study estimates their tax contributions would rise by \$40.2 billion per year to a total of \$136.9 billion. Most of this new revenue - \$33.1 billion - would go to the federal government, with the remaining \$7.1 billion benefiting states and localities.

ITEP's study is the most thorough examination to date of the federal, state, and local tax payments made by undocumented immigrants. The study combines well-established techniques for estimating the size and tax-relevant characteristics of the undocumented population with comprehensive data from ITEP's studies of U.S. tax incidence.

The ITEP report makes it clear that immigration policy choices have substantial implications for public revenue at all government levels. The study underscores the critical role that undocumented immigrants play in the U.S. economy and the potential benefits of providing them with work authorization.

- Rewritten from CMC



Jamaican Defence Force Names Vessel In Honor Of Marcus Garvey

A Jamaica Defence Force, (JDF), vessel has been named in honor of national hero Marcus Garvey. The His Majesty King Charles Jamaican Ship Marcus Garvey was commissioned into service on July 30th.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness stated that naming the vessel after Garvey reflects his legacy and philosophy of self-reliance. During the ceremony, Holness emphasized the significance of the event coinciding with Jamaica's emancipation and independence celebrations.

"Against the backdrop of our independence, it is particularly fitting that this vessel is named in honor of the Right Excellent Marcus Garvey. Born in St. Ann's Bay on August 17, 1887, Garvey was acutely aware of the injustices faced by people of African descent. He founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association in 1914 and established the

Black Star Line five years later to connect North America and Africa. Through these visionary initiatives, he promoted black social and economic empowerment," Holness said.

The Prime Minister added that Garvey's teachings resonate with the government's push for full economic and political independence.

"Throughout his activism, Marcus Garvey frequently used the phrase, 'One God, One Aim, One Destiny,' emphasizing the importance of self-reliance. His teachings of self-determination and self-reliance profoundly resonate with our ongoing efforts to strengthen our institutions, empower our people, and continue Jamaica's march toward economic and full political



The late Right Excellent Marcus Garvey.

independence."

Holness noted that the vessel symbolizes the country being guided by Garvey's enduring legacy.

- Rewritten from CMC



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Hurricane Beryl's Monumental Effects Still Being Felt Across The Caribbean

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Hurricanes are powerful forces of nature that can become extremely destructive events. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), hurricanes start by sucking heat from tropical waters.

They form over the Atlantic Ocean, then move through tropical waters, picking up more heat - which creates low pressure underneath - causing air to rush into it. The rising air cools, resulting in clouds and thunderstorms. All of this movement creates winds that can reach calamitous speeds.

Back in May this year, weather forecasters at NOAA predicted that this Atlantic hurricane season - June 1 to November 30, 2024 - would see above-normal activity. Although not outside the normal timeframe, Hurricane Beryl was the earliest declared category-5 storm in the north Atlantic.

Beryl swept across the Caribbean on July 1, 2024, starting from the easternmost islands, decimating some in the process, and causing several deaths.

MONUMENTAL TASK

The eastern Caribbean Island of Grenada and its sister islands Carriacou and Petite



A woman looks at a beach littered with trash in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl at Bull Bay, Jamaica on July 4. (Ricardo Makyn/AFP/Getty Images)

Martinique and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were perhaps among the most devastated by the direct hit of the category-5 hurricane. It caused severe infrastructural damage, levelled some buildings and homes along with electric polls that triggered the loss of power and telecommunications, decimated crops and trees, and displaced persons housed in shelters. These islands are still reeling from the effects, with many communities still without basic services.

JAMAICA

As Beryl continued westward on its path, it roared past Jamaica, causing infrastructure, housing, and

crop damage to the island, particularly on the southwestern coastal areas. Power and telecommunications outages affected most of the island. In fact, like most of the islands touched by Beryl, there are many communities without electricity and potable water more than 3 weeks after the hurricane. Damage to the agricultural sector was most significant in the Parishes of Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth known as Breadbasket of Jamaica.

The sleepy fishing village of Treasure Beach in St. Elizabeth will take a long while to recover, having sustained the brunt of Hurricane Beryl's force. Small

businesses and local fishermen/women will have to start from scratch.

Not even more established enterprises were spared. Jakes Treasure Beach, the colorful resort that dots the outstretched arms of Calabash Bay, and home of the Calabash International Literary Festival, was battered. The 3-day festival draws thousands of book lovers from across the Caribbean, the US, Europe, and beyond, takes place every other year, with the next scheduled for 2025.

Jakes management team, in an official statement, made it clear that they and the community will rebuild stronger and reopen in phases.

"There is widespread property damage in and around Treasure Beach and southern St. Elizabeth. Homes and the livelihoods of farmers, shopkeepers, restaurants, and other businesses have suffered extensive damage. Our community is resilient and will rebuild stronger than ever with your love and support," the statement added.

BOILING POINT

But frustration has reached boiling point for some as they are still without power more three weeks on. In addition, they have received estimated electricity bills for thousands of

dollars from the power company - Jamaica Public Service, (JPS). Protest and roadblocks in St. Mary is just one example of the actions irate residents have taken to get attention.

As a result, the company has "relaxed its Collections and Disconnection processes." In addition, JPS announced a 20 percent discount on bills for customers who use 150 kWh of electricity or less per month.

Although Jamaica did not get a direct hit from Beryl, the strength of her winds and rain has left a mark.

Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Meanwhile, looking at the monumental task of rebuilding, leaders from several eastern Caribbean islands - Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda - wrote a letter to the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary seeking "immediate debt cancellation" so that they can focus on restoring their devastated countries without further burden. In fact, the UK government promised a £500,000 relief package for Caribbean countries affected by Beryl. But is it enough?

Along with fellow regional leaders, Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, made

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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Caribbean Diaspora Unites To Aid Hurricane Beryl Victims

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

The Caribbean Diaspora has rallied behind the region, parts of which were shattered by Hurricane Beryl last month. The Category 5 monster ravaged parts of Barbados, the Cayman Islands, as well as the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique in Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica.

Beryl hit Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent and The Grenadines on July 1st, then moved on to Jamaica and Cayman. Her powerful gusts resulted in 10 deaths and millions of dollars in damage.

Carriacou, Petite Martinique and Jamaica were hardest hit by Beryl with infrastructure suffering the most damage. The regional agriculture sector was also devastated, with damage estimated at more than \$100 million.

Tourism, the diving force of many Caribbean economies, escaped serious damage. In Jamaica, the region's largest leisure market, major properties on the country's rural north coast survived Beryl's onslaught.

Caribbean Diaspora nationals have since rallied to help. In New York, the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Relief, USA, Incorporation raised funds and collected relief items, which were shipped to that country which is located in the Windward Islands.

"This is our time to activate and show our brothers and sisters at home that they are not alone," said Rony McIntosh, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Consul General to the United States. "We will rise again."

In South Florida, Oliver Mair, dean of the Caribbean Consular Corps, led relief efforts for Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada, and the Cayman Islands, which was also affected by Hurricane Beryl.

"The initiatives are coming along well, our role at the consulate has been one of facilitator," he said. "We are communicating with our communities as to how they can participate in the relief efforts. We have identified three main ways — persons can make monetary contributions to ODPEM (Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management in Jamaica), and organizations such as Food For The Poor, Global Empowerment Mission, Caribbean Strong, Sandals Foundation, Bob Marley and Rita Marley Foundation and American Friends of Jamaica. We encourage persons to make contributions to them."

He disclosed that over 300 volunteers have joined the South Florida relief cause.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines' United States Consul General Rony McIntosh, back row, in white shirt, without cap, with nationals, with some relief items in foreground. (Photo: CMC)

NEEDS LIST

AGRICULTURE

- Assorted Fruits & Vegetable Seeds
- Cabbage
- Sweet Pepper
- Broccoli
- Carrot
- Cucumber
- String Bean
- Tomato
- Pak Choi
- Watermelon

Livestock Related

- Feed (Cattle, Small Ruminants, Pig) Medications
- Automatic Waterers
- Feeders
- Mesh Wire
- Barbed Wire
- Diamond Wire
- Pig Wire
- Irrigation Hoses
- Main Line 32mm, 16mm, 12mm
- Fungicide Copper Base

Tools and Equipment

- Chain Saws
- Pole Pruning Saws
- Wheelbarrows
- Solar powered systems
- Hoes
- Garden Forks
- Metal cutters
- Fertigation pumps
- Flares (for fishers)
- Weed Wacker with Blade
- Hand Saws
- Water Pumps
- Mist Blower 420
- Defeathering Machine
- Generators
- Generators (Standby)
- Mechanical Auger Spades
- Shovels
- Claw hammers
- Fishing nets
- Pick Axes
- Files
- Bolt guns
- Motorized Knapsack Sprayers
- Circular Saws
- Chaffing Machines
- Machetes
- Drill guns
- Soil testing kits
- Water Boots
- Crates
- Assorted PVC pipes and fittings

- Safety vests (fishers) Igloos (cold storage)

Irrigation

- Plastic Mulch
- Portable pipe fitting machines
- Variable Frequency Drive: pumps
- Trash pumps
- Pond liners
- Portable pipe socketing machine
- Portable Welding Plants
- 5 Ton pulley
- Wrench Set Heavy Duty
- Water tanks
- Power Packs
- Heavy Duty Spanner Sets
- Portable mid-sized 2-4in pipe trenchers
- Greenhouses
- Polypropylene Plastic (UV)
- Antiviral Netting (Anti Insect Net)
- 40% Shade Saron Mesh (shade cloth)
- 73% Shade Saron Mesh (shade cloth)
- Potting Mix Potting Bags
- Fertilizer

Farm Building Material

- 12 ft. Zinc Sheetting
- 10 ft. Zinc Sheetting
- 8 ft. Zinc Sheetting
- 2x4x16 Lumber
- 2x4x12 Lumber
- 2x4x8 Lumber
- 5x8 Ply Board
- 3x8 Ply Board

HEALTH

- Transport Oxygen Cylinders (C or D)
- Neonatal Incubators
- C-PAP Consumables (Nasal masks, nasal prongs, bonnet, headgear) Disposable linen
- Generators (New placement for Laboratories)
- Generators (New placement for vaccine refrigerators)
- Disaster Supplies (PPE: Raincoats, boots, golashes, heavy duty gloves) PPE
- Manual Blood Pressure Machines
- Pocket Pulse oximeters

- UPS for Lab Equipment
- Vaccine Refrigerators (2-8°C)
- Generators (Replacements for damaged/defective generators)

Disaster Supplies (Tarpaulins)
Disaster Supplies (Solar powered emergency lights)
Field hospital and equipment (Stretchers, Multifunction vital signs monitor, Oxygen delivery system, Wheelchairs, Suction Machine, ECG Machine, Drug Cart)

UNIVERSAL NEED ACROSS ALL SECTORS

- Lanterns
- Flashlight
- Mattress
- Foam Pad
- Hygiene Kit
- Cleaning Kit
- Water Storage Tank 1000 gal
- Water Storage Tanks (other sizes)
- Industrial Stoves
- Industrial Field stoves
- Portable Generators
- Standby Generators
- Disaster Response Specialists
- Search and rescue equipment
- Metal Hull Rescue Boats
- Batteries D Size
- Solar Powered Batteries
- Assorted Tarpaulins
- Solar Powered Lanterns
- Heavy Duty Special Roofing Tarpaulin
- Cots
- Water Storage Containers
- Industrial Pots and Pans
- Wheelbarrows
- Life vests
- Jerry Cans
- Raincoats
- Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats equipped with engines and equipment

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Hurricane Beryl's Monumental Effects Still Being Felt Across The Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

it clear that the region wants meaningful support from those responsible for climate change.

"We are no longer prepared to accept that it is OK for us to constantly suffer significant loss and damage arising from climatic events and be expected to borrow, to rebuild year after year while the countries that are responsible for creating the situation and exacerbating the situation sit idly by with platitudes and tokenism," he stated.

So, how does the region prepare for the next one? Like they always do - by focusing on its people, planet, prosperity, purpose, and partnership, the five pillars essential for building a stronger Caribbean as adopted at the Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism

Development in April this year.

Only the first hurricane of the season, life in the region is moving ahead. As our Caribbean athletes compete in the Paris Olympics, we must remember that most of them are representing islands that have been severely affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Some have left homes without roofs, without electricity, without running water and islands still coming to grips with yet another disaster fueled by climate change - a phenomenon that is being fed by human action mainly from rich countries north of the region.

So, let's celebrate their wins this summer, but not forget that some will go back home to an environment trying to rebuild from under the rubble.



Jamaican Centenarian Re-Launches Book On Caribbean Workers In Upstate New York During WWII



Jamaican Centenarian John McHugh is flanked by his daughters, Helena, (l.), and Emily, r., at the re-launch of his book, 'The Forgotten Reapers of World War II: Gallant Jamaicans Help Defeat The Axis Powers,' in June at West Regional Library in Plantation, Florida.

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Elba is one of the many towns and villages that dot upstate New York's landscape. It has less than 1,000 residents, but prides itself as being the 'Onion capital of the United States'. During World War II, a contingent of Caribbean workers were assigned there to reap the area's prime crop. One of those workers was John McHugh, a Jamaican printer. He recalls his five-month stay in Elba in his book, 'The Forgotten Reapers of World War II: Gallant Jamaicans Help Defeat The Axis Powers.'

McHugh, who now lives in Florida, launched his book in August, 2023 to celebrate his 103rd birthday. But on June 9, 2024, he re-launched it at West

Regional Library in Plantation, Florida.

"It's on Amazon and also available in other locations," said Emily McHugh, one of his four children. "But I might be quick to add, because of its popularity it keeps selling out."

McHugh was born and raised in St. Ann's Bay, which is also the birthplace of Pan African giant Marcus Garvey and reggae legend Burning Spear. He was recruited to work the Elba onion farm by the War Manpower Commission, an organization formed by the US government to boost the labor force after the country entered World War II in December, 1941.

Emily McHugh said her father preserved his personal diary from the time, which

assisted him and his son Michael to give an accurate recollection of the period. Michael also called on the Historical Society of Elba to enhance those notes.

"They provided articles from their local newspapers at the time about the labor shortage and how they needed help. And they also published an article about Jamaicans arriving

and saving their crops," she disclosed.

John McHugh and three of his friends from St. Ann's Bay boarded a ship in Kingston. They arrived in Virginia, from where they took the train to upstate New York. After leaving the onion farm, McHugh worked for 10 months at three other farms in New York. He returned

to Jamaica in September, 1945 where he resumed his job as a printer.

In 1956, he and his family moved to England. They lived there for 13 years, then migrated to the US, settling in East Orange, New Jersey. Since 2013, McHugh, now almost 104, has lived in Fort Pierce.



Fight the bite!



DRAIN & COVER



Florida Ranked Sixth in Cyberattack Risk, Report Shows

Florida ranks sixth in the nation for cyberattack risk, with a risk score of 7.39 out of 10, according to a recent report by cybersecurity firm KiteWorks. The report highlights that global cybercrime costs are projected to rise dramatically from \$9.22 trillion in 2024 to \$13.82 trillion by 2028. In the United States alone, these costs are expected to exceed \$452 billion in 2024.

Alarming, in 2023, three out of four companies in the U.S. were at risk of a significant cyber attack, according to Chief Information Security Officers, (CISO).

KiteWorks' analysis reveals that Florida, with its large population of 22,610,726, has experienced 42,188 cyberattack victims annually since 2020. This figure is 78% higher than in neighboring Georgia, which has a smaller population of 11,029,227 and reported only 18,502 victims. Financial losses from cyberattacks in Florida

have surged by 26.1% over the past five years, totaling \$309,488,592. Additionally, the state saw a 29.1% increase in victim counts over four years, partly due to its popularity as a retirement destination, making it an attractive target for cybercriminals preying on elderly residents.

Nationwide, California leads in annual cyberattack losses, amounting to over \$656 million. The report also found that Colorado is the state where businesses are most at risk of cyberattacks, with a risk score of 7.96. Colorado has seen a 58.7% increase in victim losses since 2017. Missouri experienced the largest four-year increase in financial losses from cyberattacks, with a 136% rise since 2017, while Virginia is the only state to see a decrease in cyberattack victims since 2017, with a 10.8% reduction.



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FEATURE



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Jamaican Immigrant Is New Principal At Mast Academy

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

When students at MAST Academy return from summer vacation on August 15th, a new principal will lead the school. But he's already a familiar face.

Dr. Michael Gould, who was previously the school's assistant principal for 13 years, got the nod to be the headmaster for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Gould replaces Dr. Cadian Collman-Perez was promoted to District Director for the Office of Post Secondary Career and Technical Education for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Gould, who was born in Kingston, Jamaica, said he was overwhelmed after learning he was named the new principal for MAST Academy.

"When I heard the news, I was overcome with excitement," Dr. Gould told CT in a recent interview. "I've been here for 13 years and am honored and thrilled to have the privilege to lead the institution. Over the years, I have seen the rise and fall of MAST Academy and I'm proud of our work in

excellence."

MAST Academy released a statement on social media welcoming Dr. Gould as the new principal.

"With his exemplary leadership and kind heart, we are confident that he will continue to inspire and uplift us all. Together, we remain anchored in excellence, ready to achieve great things together!"

Opened in 1991, MAST Academy, 3979 Rickenbacker Causeway near Key Biscayne, is the only maritime and science technology magnet high school in Miami-Dade County. With students in grades 6th to 12th, MAST Academy has a Cambridge program which provides college-preparatory curricula for students, and the school offers a full range of honors and Dual Enrollment courses.

It was ranked ninth among the 138 high schools in the Miami-Dade Public Schools system this past school year and nationally recognized as among the best magnet schools in the country, according to U.S. World

News and Report. It has been an "A" rated school for 13 consecutive years.

Dr. Gould has been chosen to continue the level of success at the top-tier magnet school, and he meticulously prepared himself for such a role.

With an estimated 1530 students returning to class in this month, Hispanics constitute 90 percent of the student population, one percent is Black, and the rest are of Asian and Native American descent.

Dr. Gould, who previously oversaw the curriculum for 11th and 12th grade students as an assistant principal, said his focus is fostering academic excellence and enhancing community engagement including involving much parent involvement in their kids' education and future career plans.



Jamaican immigrant Dr. Michael Gould is the new principal of MAST Academy. (Contributed image: Miami-Dade County Public Schools)

He said the key components for excellence in academics for the upcoming school year are student professional development and for teachers to adopt innovative curriculum that challenges students in the classrooms.

Dr. Gould also wants to expand the school's Diversity

Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program to create one environment among the student population. "For all students, I coined the phrase, if you invite one student to the dance floor, you have to invite all of them," he said.

Dr. Gould said his vision also includes continuing a partnership with local organizations and businesses and the Village of Key Biscayne to support academic incentives for students including offering college scholarships and internships. He said an agreement with Key Biscayne yielded financial contributions to building a new soccer field and pampering the school's Cambridge program.

Dr. Gould, who lives in Miami Beach, has been an educator for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for over 30 years. He also taught school in Jamaica and Canada before arriving in the U.S., where he earned his master's and doctorate degrees in education leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Broward County.



Son Of Caribbean Immigrants Named Co-Ancor of 'CBS Evening News'

Maurice DuBois, the son of Caribbean immigrants, has been named the new co-anchor of 'CBS Evening News.'

A seasoned anchorman for WCBS-TV in New York City and the CBS network, DuBois will replace Norah O'Donnell and share the spot with John Dickerson, CBS's lead political analyst and the host of an evening CBS News streaming show.

Born on Long Island, New York, to parents from

Dominica, DuBois attended Port Jefferson High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While in college, he interned at the Public Affairs Office of the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, contributing to the employee newspaper, the Brookhaven Bulletin.

DuBois began his career in 1987 as a desk assistant



CBS TV Personality, Caribbean American Maurice Dubois, is the son of immigrants from Dominica.

at KING-TV in Seattle, Washington. He then served as an anchor and reporter at WFLD-TV in Chicago, Illinois, and KCRA-TV in Sacramento, California. He spent seven years at WNBC-TV in New York, co-anchoring 'Today in New York' and hosting 'Four Stories' and 'Mind Over Media.'

He also worked as a substitute news reader on NBC News's 'Today' and its weekend editions. In September 2004, he joined WCBS-TV in New York as an anchor for the 6 pm newscast, 'CBS 2 News at 6,' with Dana Tyler. Since then, he has co-anchored 'CBS 2 News This Morning' and 'CBS 2 News at Noon' with Cindy Hsu and Mary Calvi.

In January 2011, DuBois began co-anchoring 'CBS 2 News at 5' and 'CBS 2 News at 11' with Kristine Johnson. He occasionally substitutes on the weekend edition of 'CBS Evening News.' His reporting

includes national political conventions, AIDS in South Africa, the death of Pope John Paul II, and the installation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Active in the community, DuBois serves on the boards of Pencil, Susan G. Komen for the Cure (New York City affiliate), and New York City Center. He has also worked with WNET's GED program.

DuBois and his wife, Andrea Adair, married on August 13, 2001, have two sons and live in Harlem. He has received four Emmy Awards, honors from the Associated Press, and a Trailblazer Award from the New York City chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. He holds honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Briarcliffe College, Medgar Evers College, Seton Hall University, and St. Francis College.

CBS network executives promise journalistic rigor for the show. Bill Owens, the executive producer of '60 Minutes,' will oversee the editorial direction of 'Evening News,' with Guy Campanile, a '60 Minutes' producer, serving as the nightly show's executive producer. Wendy McMahon, the chief executive of CBS News, Stations, and CBS Media Ventures, stated that the new leadership team represents "the infusion of '60 Minutes' mission and values into the 'CBS Evening News' nightly."

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Can Kamala Harris Can Beat Donald Trump?

As an independent voter and an immigrant from the Caribbean, the birthplace of Kamala Harris' father, I should be thrilled at the possibility of the U.S. having its first President with Caribbean roots. However, Harris herself hardly acknowledges her

Caribbean heritage, with her White House bio simply stating she is the "first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected to" the position of vice president.

In 2021, I led a Caribbean collective that celebrated her ascent as the first Caribbean American Vice President of the U.S., simply because she and the mainstream media were not recognizing this fact. Harris barely responded – only after I threatened to publicly accuse her of ignoring us and her roots. In a speech, she made a single, brief mention of her Caribbean heritage without specifying Jamaica or her father. Many in the Caribbean community felt slighted, especially since she consistently highlights her South Asian roots.

Despite this, I want to feel ecstatic that finally, there could be someone to end the xenophobic rhetoric from the right once and for all. I want to feel enthusiasm as a woman, a person of color, and an immigrant. I want to be thrilled at Harris potentially being the Shirley Chisholm of our time. After all, she raised a record-breaking \$81 million within



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

24 hours of announcing her candidacy and secured enough support from delegates at the Democratic National Convention on July 22nd to clinch the Democratic nomination.

But sadly, I do not feel enthused, mainly because I do not believe that Vice President Harris can beat Donald Trump this November. I think, deep down, President Joe Biden felt similarly, reading the current U.S. political landscape – that Harris cannot defeat Trump, despite the strong Black voter base.

Biden tried to hold on as long as he could despite his frailty, insisting he alone could beat Trump. He reportedly kept asking how Harris was polling against Trump and his MAGA followers because many feel deep down that she cannot win. Beyond Harris' lack of experience, her failures as immigration czar, and her inability to win a primary election in the past and connect with voters, there is a deeper issue that many on the left are refusing to face.

It is the same issue that caused so much animosity toward Barack Obama, the U.S.'s first Black President. It is the reason for the rise of the Tea Party and Trump's MAGA supporters. America is still inherently a racist and sexist place, and in 2024, it is more so than ever. Hillary Clinton failed to beat Trump in 2016 because, at the end of the day, the country remains a patriarchal society, especially in rural America. Today, this is even more pronounced, with Trump fueling the flames of sexism and racism in critical Electoral College

states.

Democrats have lost ground in these states while Republicans have gained due to their supporters being more adept at participating in the Census. After Biden stepped aside, polls show Trump and Harris in a tight race, separated by a single percentage point among likely voters. The polls were wrong in 2016, as Hillary Clinton found out. Many

older White Democratic voters may not vote for Harris and are unlikely to disclose this to pollsters.

Even if Harris manages to win the popular vote, buoyed by the Black vote, the immigrant vote, the youth vote, and the female vote, she may not secure the Electoral College vote, which is crucial to defeating Trump. Trump's largely White base has

already begun launching racist and sexist attacks on Harris, calling her derogatory names. They are determined to prevent America from electing another Black President and "poisoning the blood" of their country, which is what I fear most in this election.



Old Age Sucks

If you live long enough, you'll revert to the ways of infancy including no teeth, poor eyesight, can't walk, always drooling, peeing and messing up yourself. It's not pretty, as both ends of the age range are similar. They do say: "Once a man, twice a child."

So, don't believe them when they say that old age brings pleasures, and you must look forward to the golden years. It's baloney, balderdash, bunkum, bovine crap, a lot of hooley.

The golden years are now, when you can still run up and down like a horse, dance to your heart's content, and romance like there's no tomorrow. At least that's what I was told by an old timer who whispered to me:



TONY ROBINSON

"Don't get old, it's no fun."

I was in the pharmacy recently where I overheard a poor old lady lamenting the high cost of her medication. She muttered to whoever would lend an ear: "Look at my bill, it cost too much to get sick, too much to live and too much to die."

And that is the plight of many older folks who are not enjoying the so-called pleasures of growing old. Of course young people get sick too, but it's a guarantee that as you get older, the probability of you having health issues will increase.

And it doesn't have to be anything debilitating either, but just the regular wearing out of parts, such as the knee and hip joints that cause discomfort or pain.

So, if you can do it, don't get old, for it brings no joy. In fact, it was George Bernard Shaw who said: "Youth is wasted on the young." Members of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Rent Relief: A Winning Policy Issue For The Harris Campaign

BY EDOLPHUS TOWNS JR.

Renters account for approximately 34% of the U.S. population, with 44 million housing units in the U.S. currently being rented. Talking directly to this constituency is a winning formula. The Department of Labor recently released new Consumer Price Index data. It showed that while inflation has cooled down in many areas of the economy, rent prices continue their upward ascent across the country, with the annual increase now exceeding 5 percent.

Home prices have risen 47 percent since the pandemic, and according to a report released this year from Harvard University, over half of renters are now spending more than a third of their income on housing. Since 2020, the average rental price has risen 17% to \$1,713 monthly, and in cities like New York and San Francisco, average rents now top over \$3,000 a month.

As the former Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I know all too well the need for balanced and properly enforced legislation and regulations to remedy this problem. But the keyword here is balance.

The fact that rent prices are now falling in the U.S. markets where business owners have developed new rental units has proven that when the economy and building conditions approve, so does America's rental affordability. For this reason, it is important that our nation's regulators let small business owners who risk their capital to continue purchasing and refurbishing derelict properties, which improves our communities and creates affordable rental units. That is why it is concerning that some regulators are targeting property management software these business owners use to do so.

Using predictive data analytics, these software companies help business owners ensure they are pricing their homes and units accurately, preventing shortages (which ultimately inflate rental prices) and excessive vacancies (which decreases profit margins and incentivizes future building) from developing. However, some regulators believe this software - by maximizing revenue potential - is to blame for the high rental costs many Americans are paying today. This is the equivalent of blaming Kelley Blue Book

for "raising" car prices, and if they outlaw this technology, it will backfire by incentivizing housing development, which will ultimately reduce supply and increase prices.

While this policy prescription is not a winning one, there is fortunately no shortage of balanced solutions to make rent more competitive and affordable to working families.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democrat nominee, has a history of proposing sound affordable housing plans that resonate with voters. Given how much attention voters are paying to this issue, she should quickly make them a central part of her campaign platform. For example, while serving in the U.S. Senate, Harris proposed the Rent Relief Act, which would have issued tax credits to all Americans who spend more than 30% of their incomes on rent. If passed, this proposal would have helped millions of Americans afford shelter. Today, over half a decade later, half of renters still shell out more than 30% of their incomes on rent and utilities, so this idea is without question one that still has legislative merit.

Vice President Harris should

also continue pledging to expand the Housing Choice Voucher program.

This program, also known as Section 8, provides rental assistance to low-income families, enabling them to afford housing in the private market. The Biden-Harris administration has proposed increasing funding for HCVs by \$5 billion, which could help as many as 200,000 additional households that spend over 30% of their income on rent afford their monthly payments.

The Housing Choice Voucher plan also includes measures to incentivize local governments to relax zoning laws that are restricting affordable housing while removing other counterproductive regulations that have discouraged developers from building new units. By making it easier to construct new properties, these policy prescriptions will

prove crucial to quickly getting more affordable units on the marketplace. All of Vice President Harris diverse solutions to improving Americans' rental conditions will provide mammoth leaps forward to fixing the status quo. With voters nationwide pressing their political leaders to address the housing crisis, she should share them on the campaign trail without delay.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Edolphus "Ed" Towns Jr. is an American educator, military veteran, and former member of Congress who served in the United States House of Representatives. A Democrat from New York, Towns was Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.*



Old Age Sucks



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Hippie culture back in the 1960s in the USA also said: "Live fast, die young and leave a pretty corpse."

I'm not sure if I totally agree with that, for there's merit to growing old and living your life to the fullest, enjoying as many experiences as you can. But I can appreciate where they're coming from. When you see how old age destroys some people it can really make you shudder and hope that fate does not befall you.

Then there are some people who as they hit late forties or fifties they start to age, look and act really old. "The man is barely forty eight but acting like he's seventy eight."

That being said though, there are certain characteristics that emerge when people get old; although some folks try to mask them. Ironically, there are some who although young, exhibit the characteristics of old age.

Still, no matter how hard you try to slow it down or even stop it, there is no fountain of youth, no elixir, no pill to retard the ageing process. The passage of time still creeps up on you, sometimes it rushes, and with it the ravages of growing old.

A man I know told me that

he made such a mistake when he married a woman who was older than he was. "Now that I am sixty-seven, she is eighty. What am I doing with an eighty-year-old woman?"

It may sound cruel, but he was genuinely perturbed of the prospect of being married to a woman who was eighty years old, even though he was still a sprightly sixties.

"When I was thirty and she was forty-three it was fine, even when we were forties and fifties, but eighty is quite daunting."

That's why many a mother will advise her son not to marry a woman who is older than him. "It is not strange, that desire should so many years, outlive performance," Shakespeare wrote.

But men still look, leer and lust. That's why you should not be judgmental of those 'cashy' older men who get involved with young women. Maybe they're trying to regain their youth.

Even as you get older it doesn't mean that you have to act old. Stay as young as you can for as long as you can, for based on what I've seen and heard, growing old has no positive pleasures. Old age sucks!



It Is Kamala Harris' Presidency To Lose!

By Arthur Piccolo

Even though it is likely if the Joe Biden decline "cover-up" of silence had not taken place and President Biden had announced, as he clearly should have before 2024, that he would not run for re-election, Kamala Harris may not have emerged as the victor in a competitive primary race. The fact is Vice President Kamala Harris now has a clear path to the Presidency of the United States. Kamala Harris' Wisconsin speech was only the kick off as the Harris polls show.

Kamala Harris is now Donald

Trump's worst nightmare, if she effectively executes over the next 100 days. There is one overwhelming 5 letter word that tells us all why: "I AM WOMAN."

That is Kamala Harris' magic source. Black or white, it would have been the same and no right wing 'blm Kamala Harris' trolls can stop it. The issue of gender is transformational in a nation that claims to be the leader of the world, but remains one of only a few Western democracies that have never elected a female president or prime minister.

In fact, by now in 2024, there are any number of autocratic nations that have been led by a woman.

The excitement and incredible fund raising of the last few days among Democrats reflect that. Yes is relief Biden did the right thing finally, but as much if not more, that America finally has a woman who can be President very soon.

Trump's almost guaranteed victory in November up until now was not based on him, his policies or his style - it was all about Joe Biden. Not the economy, not crime, not immigration - it ultimately was about Joe Biden most of all.

Some brand new Harris polls may show the race very close with Harris rather than Biden. But in fact, the clear distinctions between Trump and Harris will increasingly become clearer over the next 100 days - a fat old nasty man vs. a much younger woman, with far better communications skills than Joe Biden.

What will "trump" Trump is our historic opportunity to elect the FIRST female President of the United States. That will attract far more voters than those who will not vote for a woman for President. Yes, all kinds of surprises might change this equation but barring any of them, the only one who can defeat Kamala Harris, is Kamala Harris. If not, it will be President Harris.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Arthur Piccolo is the President of the Bowling Green Association of New York and a frequent contributor to NewsAmericasnow.com*






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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vybz Kartel Is Free



Vybz Kartel will face no retrial.

The Court of Appeal on July 31st freed dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel, whose given name is Adidja Palmer, after unanimously deciding against ordering a retrial for the 2011 murder of Clive "Lizard" Williams.

The court also freed Kartel's co-accused, Shawn Campbell, Kahira Jones, and Andre St. John. The three-judge panel, consisting of Justices Marva McDonald-Bishop, Paulette Williams, and David Fraser, made the decision.

Justice Marva McDonald-

Bishop, President of the Court of Appeal, stated that despite the facts showing "barefaced defiance of law and order," the court considered the lengthy time the men have been in custody and the psychological and health impact on the appellants if a new trial were ordered. Defense lawyers, particularly for Vybz Kartel, cited the artiste's declining mental and physical health, including his diagnosis of Grave's Disease.

In 2020, lawyers representing the quartet appealed to the local Court of Appeal, but their convictions were upheld. The appeal was then taken to the United Kingdom-based Privy Council, which overturned their murder convictions on March 14 due to juror misconduct. The Privy Council remitted the case back to the Jamaica Court of Appeal to decide on a retrial, which has now been denied.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Buju Is Coming To Florida



Buju Banton performing on July 14th in New York, the first performance in the US in over a decade. (Screengrab/YouTube)

Grammy-winning Jamaican reggae singer, Buju Banton, is coming to Fort Lauderdale this month. Fresh off an incredible weekend of back-to-back concert performances in New York on July 13th and 14th, his first performances in the city in 15 years, Banton announced "THE OVERCOMER TOUR 2024," with special guest Fridayy, a rising Haitian American singer, songwriter, and record producer.

Banton will be performing at the Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise, Florida on August 23rd from 8 p.m. Doors open one hour before the show. It

will be his second arena performance since returning back to the US.

The singer will then head to Tampa on August 25th for a performance at the Amalie Arena. Tickets at the Amerant arena start at \$65 and up, based on seat location at BUJUBANTON.com. However, tickets are much pricier on Ticket Master and other resellers.

Produced by black-owned AG Touring in association with Gargamel Music and XO Management, this summer's hottest reggae concert ticket promises an unforgettable experience.

Banton's manager, Joseph Budafuco, expressed great pride in Banton's accomplishments and highlighted the monumental nature of his first-ever arena tour. Budafuco emphasized the significance of the singer returning to tour in the U.S. after a 15-year hiatus, noting the anticipation and excitement surrounding this momentous

event.

OTHER BUJU BANTON TOUR DATES

- **August 27, 2024:** Washington, DC @ Capital One Arena
- **August 30, 2024:** Boston, MA @ TD Garden
- **September 1, 2024:** Philadelphia, PA @ Wells Fargo Center
- **September 6, 2024:** Hartford, CT @ XL Center
- **September 8, 2024:** Atlanta, GA @ State Farm Arena
- **September 12, 2024:** Houston, TX @ Toyota Center
- **September 13, 2024:** Dallas, TX @ American Airlines Center
- **September 15, 2024:** Phoenix, AZ @ Footprint Center
- **September 18, 2024:** Inglewood, CA @ Intuit Dome
- **September 23, 2024:** San Jose, CA @ SAP Center
- **September 29, 2024:** Chicago, IL @ Allstate Arena
- **November 17, 2024:** Brooklyn, NY @ Barclays Center



Calypso Legend Calypso Rose Receives First Gold Record In France

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Long before Denyse Plummer, Destra Garcia and Alison Hinds, Calypso Rose carried the musical banner for women in the Eastern Caribbean. Now 84, and living in New York, she received her first gold record in her career last month.

Fittingly, that song is 'Calypso Queen,' from her 2016 album, 'Far From Home.' It was certified gold in France by the National Syndicate of Phonographic Publishing SNEP for sales of 100,000 units in sales and streaming.

It is the second certification from that organization for Calypso Rose. 'Far From Home' was certified platinum in France seven years ago. The album also won the 2017 Victoire de la Musique Award – the French equivalent of a Grammy, for World Music Album of The Year.

A long-time resident of Queens, Calypso Rose, whose real name is Linda McCartha Monica Sandy-Lewis, was born in Tobago. Her many



Calypso Rose has finally received her first gold record at 84.

hit songs range from traditional calypsos like 'Fire In Meh Wire,' and 'Do Dem Back,' to soca 'Leh We Punta.'

Along with Trinidadians Lord Kitchener and The Mighty Sparrow, and The Merry Men from Barbados, Calypso Rose helped spread the calypso gospel throughout the Caribbean during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as the West Indian Diaspora in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom.

But she also had a following in Europe, particularly France and Scandinavia.

In April, 2019, two weeks before her 79th birthday, Calypso Rose performed at the trendy Coachella in California, arguably the top music festival in the United States. Appearing with her at that event was Machel Montano, undisputed king of

soca.

"For the calypso genre to survive this long, for Coachella to recognize and give respect to the music created in Trinidad and Tobago, it's like putting a flag down on the moon. For Rose to be doing this at almost 80, is significant on a world scale. It is important young people look up to Calypso Rose, especially young girls, as they set their goals and seek out their dreams," he told Billboard Magazine.

Calypso Rose has endured several health challenges, including breast and stomach cancer as well as heart surgery. 'Jump With Power,' her previous album, was released in 2023.



Christopher Martin Releases New Self-Confident Anthem "Boasy"

Jamaican Dancehall star Christopher Martin has released his new, self-assured single, "Boasy." The track from his upcoming album dropped on July 25th via VP Records.

Produced by Ce'Cile and Dale "Dizzle" Virgo, "Boasy" radiates the confidence that Martin is renowned for. Similar to his hit song, "I'm a Big Deal," Martin encourages listeners to be self-assured and resistant to doubt.

"From you good at anything at all, you fi boasy!" he declares midway through the smooth track.

"'Boasy' is about self-



Christopher Martin is "Boasy" with his new single

confidence. It's knowing that you are that person – and you need no one's validation to solidify that. When you do things that are worthy of showing off, don't be afraid to show it. Always put your best foot forward. Never

shy away from being great," said Martin.

Ce'Cile, speaking on the song's creation, shared: "For this beat, my team and I aimed for something slow, sexy, and smooth – a vibe that's been missing for a while. We had to get Chris on it because he's Mr. Smooth, the King of Smoothness. 'Boasy' turned out to be quintessential Chris Martin: letting everyone feel good about themselves and be comfortable with who they are – being 'boasy' but not hype."

2024 has been a remarkable year for Christopher Martin. In March, the St. Catherine, Jamaica native won the Jacob Miller Award for Best Male Vocalist at the International

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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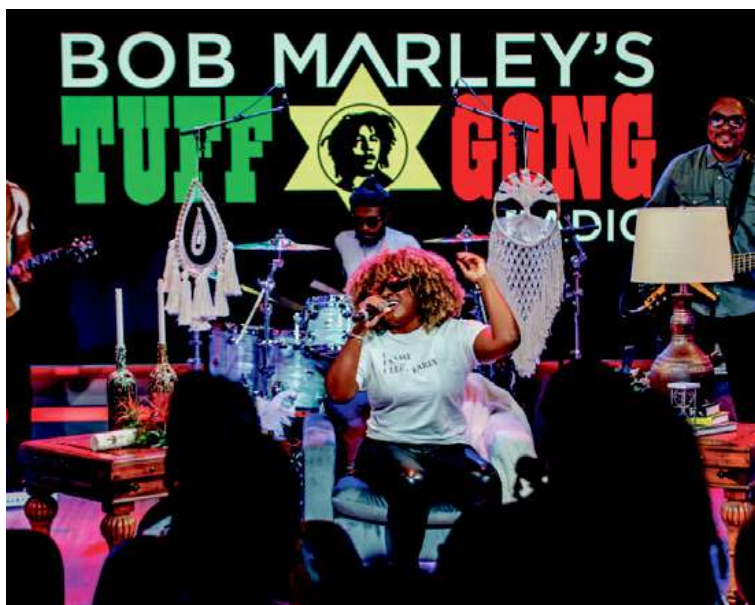
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Tanya Stephens Celebrates 20th Anniversary Of “Gangsta Blues”

Acclaimed Jamaican singer-songwriter Tanya Stephens has released “Gangsta Blues Live: 20th Anniversary” on all digital platforms, through a joint venture between Tuff Gong International and Tad’s Record Inc. This release commemorates the 20th anniversary of her landmark album “Gangsta Blues” with a live performance of the full tracklist, recorded in front of a studio audience at SiriusXM in Miami Beach, FL. Initially broadcast on SiriusXM Bob Marley’s Tuff Gong Radio, the historic concert has now been mixed and mastered into an album featuring some of Stephens’ biggest international hits like “It’s A Pity (Live),” “Boom Wuk (Live),” and “Little White Lie (Live).” The album also includes cameos from premier Jamaican talents like Spragga Benz and Kumar Fyah on “Gangsta Gal (Live)” and “This Is Love (Live),” respectively. The 18-track set also features a studio recording



Tanya Stephens performs live on SiriusXM Bob Marley’s Tuff Gong Radio show. (PHOTO CREDIT: IAN WITLEN/SiriusXM)

of Tanya’s previously released single “Heart Of Stone” with Taddy P.

Always dedicated to her loyal fans, the beloved reggae songstress has also shared a “Behind The Scenes” video

on the Tuff Gong TV YouTube channel. The clip offers an insider’s glimpse into the event, including exclusive footage of soundcheck, the green room, and culminating in Stephens’ powerful performance of the fan

favorite, “It’s A Pity (Live).”

“It has been so emotional because this was like therapy for me,” Stephens revealed in a personal message to her fans. Speaking about the album, she added, “It’s my philosophy. It’s my everything. It was my coming of age. I grew up in front of you guys. Thank you very much for being such good parents. Look how I turned out. You should be very proud! You should either be very proud or very ashamed,” she joked. “But either way, we made it this far and I really am so grateful. Thank you guys, I love you so much.”

The intimate gathering of 50 fans at the live recording session was a testament to the enduring love for Stephens. The veteran artist performed live renditions of the songs that elevated her status from a dancehall ingénue to one of Jamaica’s greatest storytellers. “So we’re here to celebrate, and I just want to say my heartfelt

thanks to Tuff Gong Radio and SiriusXM for celebrating with me,” Stephens addressed the crowd. “Words can’t express what this means, so I’m not gonna talk too long. I’m just gonna get into it.”

The exclusive performance was also attended by Cedella Marley, CEO of the Bob Marley Group of Companies, and hosted by DJ GQ, the host of SiriusXM Bob Marley’s Tuff Gong Radio show “Dancehall Cyaan Done.” The latest episode of the show features a career-spanning conversation with Tanya Stephens and is available to stream on the SiriusXM app.

Born Vivienne Tanya Stephenson but known by her stage name Tanya Stephens, the Jamaican reggae singer and deejay emerged in the late 1990s. She is most known for her hits “Yuh Nuh Ready Fi Dis Yet” and “It’s a Pity,” for which Stephens achieved international recognition. Stephens has released 10 studio albums to date, including the critically-acclaimed Gangsta Blues and Rebelution, as well as her most recent full length project, Some Kinda Madness.

- Newsamericasnow.com



Christopher Martin Releases New Self-Confident Anthem “Boasy”

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Reggae and World Music Awards (IRAWMAS). In April, he made history with a 20-minute set at the Penn Relays, the oldest and largest track and field competition in the U.S., becoming the first reggae artist to headline the annual athletic event at Franklin Field. Additionally, he has been nominated for the Male Reggae Artist of the Year award at the upcoming Caribbean Music Awards.

“Boasy” follows last year’s “It’s Guaranteed,” featuring Bounty Killer and Busy Signal, as a lead-up to Martin’s next studio album. This will be his third full-length project, following 2017’s Big Deal and 2019’s And Then, the latter of which reached No. 1 on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart.

Christopher Martin will debut “Boasy” live during his headlining performance at the Westchester Reggae Festival at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, NY, on August 18th.

- Newsamericasnow.com



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The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau celebrates the important impact of Miami’s Black-owned businesses on our community year-round. From restaurants, attractions, hotels, and more, they are essential in enriching the culture of our destination. This August, join us in celebrating how this range enhances tourist experiences, fuels economic growth, and fosters diversity and inclusion. We’re proud supporters of these businesses that make our destination unique and contribute to its vibrance.

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Caribbean Distilled Vodka Made From Breadfruit Raises Over \$800K

A Caribbean distilled and the world's first award-winning Island Vodka handcrafted from breadfruit, has so far raised over USD800,000 in a crowd funding equity raise on the platform Start Engine. Mutiny Island Vodka, the world's first award-winning vodka handcrafted from breadfruit, has successfully secured crowd funding of \$855,507.81 from 499 investors, with a minimum investment of \$495.60 or \$4.72 per share raised as of July 17, 2024.

Founded in 2017 by American-born Chef Todd Manley, Mutiny Island Vodka operates out of the 20,000 sq. ft. solar-powered Sion Farm distillery on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The company ensures to zero waste production. It also offers ginger and turmeric-infused vodka, hot pepper-infused vodka, and Puerto Rican coffee-infused vodka. To date, the company has reported \$5 million in sales.

Mutiny Island Vodka takes



This Caribbean Based Vodka Made From Breadfruit has raised Over 800K To Date. (mutinyislandvodka.com image)

its name from the historic Mutiny on the Bounty. According to the company, they combined breadfruit with purified Caribbean rainwater to create the unique vodka. Manley, a graduate and former graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University, previously ran

multiple restaurants with average revenues of \$1.4M per year each. After relocating to the U.S. Virgin Islands, he has opened several successful businesses and was honoured by the local Chamber of Commerce as "Business Man of the Year" in 2015. He also received the U.S. Congressional Award for his contributions to the community of St. Croix.

Manley's work with breadfruit earned him recognition at the Global Breadfruit Summit in Hawaii in 2018 and 2022. Mutiny Island Vodka has also received endorsement from the Trees That Feed Foundation for using breadfruit as a substrate, encouraging the planting of breadfruit trees. Forbes also featured the vodka, further solidifying its reputation. In the late 18th century, the British brought breadfruit to the Caribbean as a cheap food source for enslaved people. Today, however, breadfruit is prized for its versatility, nutritional benefits, and resilience in the face of

climate challenges. A new study published in the journal Current Biology highlights the crop's potential to improve food security and sovereignty in tropical regions.

Breadfruit trees are low-maintenance and can produce fruit for decades, sequestering carbon and requiring fewer resources than annual staple crops. "It should fare better than some major crops under climate change scenarios

and can be utilized in a variety of ways," said Nyree Zerega of Northwestern University.

Mutiny Island Vodka's success in raising capital underscores the growing interest in sustainable and innovative food and beverage products. The vodka can be purchased at mutinyislandvodka.com.

- Newsamericasnow.com



Celebrate Trinidad & Tobago's 62nd Birthday With This Recipe



On August 31, 2024, Trinidad and Tobago will celebrate its 62nd birthday and anniversary of independence from Britain. Why not celebrate with this delicious recipe that is oh, so T&T street food.

- When it is almost done, add your coconut milk powder (optional) and stir.
- Turn off the heat.

Bara Ingredients:

- 4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1.5 to 2 cups lukewarm water
- 1 tablespoon oil (for the dough)
- Oil for frying

Method:

- Add all your dry ingredients together into a bowl and combine well.
- Add your water a little at a time until your dough is nice and soft.
- Add 1 tablespoon of oil, and continue kneading for a few more seconds, until combined.
- Cover with a damp napkin and leave your dough to proof for about half an hour or so.
- When the dough has risen quite a bit, split it into small dough balls, about 3 inches in diameter.
- On an oiled surface, flatten your dough balls until they are a thin disc-like shape. You want to go as thin as you possibly can without tearing the dough.
- To oil that has been heated, fry these little suckers up. They take a minute or less so watch them carefully.
- Drain on a paper towel.
- Assemble your channa and bara sandwich.
- Add your favourite condiments. Enjoy!

- CookingWithRia.com



For Healthy Aging, Avoid These Common Obstacles To Good Nutrition

Proper nutrition is critical to older adults' overall vitality, providing energy, helping to control weight, and even preventing and managing some diseases.

Unfortunately, 10% of older people don't eat enough, while one-third eat too much, according to HealthinAging.org, which is the Health in Aging Foundation's online public education resource. Such nutritional imbalances may be due to the range of common obstacles some people face as they age, including changing tastes, dental problems and difficulty accessing healthy foods.

"Charles," a Cigna Healthcare Medicare Advantage (MA) customer, had several health issues when he was introduced to a nutrition program available through his MA plan. Through the program, he worked with a registered dietician, started working out, and lost nearly 50 pounds. These changes fuelled him to tackle additional health goals, including getting mental health support and assistance improving his sleep. MA plans, like those offered by Cigna Healthcare, include "extra benefits" not available through Original Medicare. The Cigna Healthcare MA nutrition program is one of those extras, and it primarily supports older adults with a body mass index below 22 or above 40, those with chronic diseases like diabetes and kidney disease, and those with low fruit and vegetable intake. Through the program, registered dietitians provide customers with



dietary advice that can help them improve their health.

Of course, program advice varies by individual and their unique nutritional needs, but some tips everyone can benefit from include the following:

Get your nutrients

According to the National Council on Aging, older adults should eat a variety of foods to get all the nutrients they need, including lean protein for muscle mass, as well as fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy. Choose foods with little to no added sugar, saturated fats and sodium. For an example of what a healthy plate looks like, visit myplate.gov.

Stay hydrated

Drink water often to aid digestion. Limit beverages with lots of added sugars or salt.

Visit the dentist

If you're having trouble chewing, visit your dentist. They may be able to help. For instance, if you have ill-fitting dentures, chewing can be improved and more comfortable with a better fit. Additionally, choosing softer foods, such as canned fruit, soups

or tuna, may help. Dental visits are a covered benefit in many Medicare

Advantage plans.

Follow food safety guidelines

Food not prepared properly can make you sick. Because those with weakened immune systems are vulnerable to food borne illnesses, it's especially important for older adults to follow food safety guidelines. If you have any doubt about a food's safety, throw it out.

Limit salt

Too much sodium can increase the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. To stay heart healthy, ask your doctor for guidance on recommended daily sodium limits based on your health status and check food labels for sodium content. Cook more meals at home using lower sodium ingredients and avoid processed foods. Flavour dishes with herbs and spices.

Seek assistance if needed. Take advantage of MA plan benefits that can help you secure healthy foods, like transportation or grocery cards. Additionally, there are local and national programs to help those on limited incomes with nutritious food costs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To learn about assistance available in your area, visit cignacommunity.findhelp.com.

- StatePoint



HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Florida Women Face Preventable Health Risks Amid Low National Health Ranking

Florida women are dying from preventable causes such as breast and cervical cancer, pregnancy complications, and mental health conditions, according to a new national scorecard on women's health.

The Commonwealth Fund's 2024 Scorecard on Women's Health and Reproductive Care evaluated women's health and reproductive care in the U.S. over the past two years, highlighting the impacts of state policies and judicial decisions that limit access to health services and reproductive care. This comes as the National Center for Health Statistics reported in March 2024 that women's life expectancy is at its lowest since 2006.

Using 32 measures, The Commonwealth Fund, a private healthcare research foundation, ranked Florida 39th in the nation for the effectiveness of its healthcare system for women ages 15 to 44. The state exceeds the U.S. average in rates of uninsured women, maternal mortality, lack of prenatal care, and deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

"Our hope is that state policymakers can use this scorecard to identify and address gaps in care to ensure all women across the United States can live healthy lives with access to quality, affordable care, no matter where they live or what their background is," said Joseph Betancourt, Commonwealth Fund

president.

A significant concern in Florida's low ranking is the high rate of uninsured women ages 19-64. Florida is one of ten states that have not expanded Medicaid eligibility and has faced issues with the unwinding of pandemic-era Medicaid coverage, leaving thousands of women newly uninsured or with significant coverage gaps.

Women in states like Florida that have not expanded Medicaid eligibility report higher rates of skipping healthcare due to cost compared to states with expanded eligibility. The scorecard shows 22% of women ages 18-44 reported needing to see a doctor in the past 12 months but could not due to cost.

"One out of six women in Florida lacks health insurance," said David Radley, senior scientist at The Commonwealth Fund. He noted that Florida also has a high percentage of women without a primary care doctor, who can manage chronic conditions, conduct screenings, and test for diseases.

"If you can get access into the healthcare delivery system in Florida, you can probably get pretty good care. But if you can't get access, you are going to feel it in your health and life expectancy," Radley said. "If you don't have a doctor who understands your circumstances, you are not as likely to get the

care you need to live a long life."

The scorecard also raises concerns over the ripple effects of the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn Roe v. Wade on access to reproductive healthcare services. A South Florida Sun Sentinel series, "Born to Die," found that expecting mothers in Florida, especially those without insurance, are forgoing prenatal care, leading to high rates of infant deaths and premature births.

Key findings from the scorecard highlight various health trends affecting women's care in Florida:

- States with abortion restrictions, including Florida, tend to have fewer maternity care providers. Several hospitals in Florida have closed their labor and delivery units.
- Women of reproductive age in states without expanded Medicaid eligibility, like Florida, are most at risk of being uninsured and skipping needed care due to cost.
- Nearly all states have seen a rise in syphilis among women of reproductive age since 2019, with Florida's rate higher than the national average.
- Maternal death rates are highest in the Mississippi Delta region, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee - all states with pre-existing abortion restrictions that now have full abortion bans.

Florida's strict six-week abortion ban took effect on May 1, but its impact on maternal death rates is still undetermined.

• Deaths among women ages 15 to 44 are highest in southeastern states, including Florida, with top causes being preventable factors such as pregnancy complications, substance use, COVID-19, and breast or cervical cancer. Florida's death rate is 114 per 100,000 women of reproductive age, compared to 70.5 in Hawaii and 203.6 in West Virginia.

"Overall, there are mounting disparities in women's health and reproductive care across the United States," Radley said. "Some states have policies that enable access to healthcare, while others do not. Florida has a large low-income population and many without health insurance, making it harder for them to get the care they need."

- *Rewritten from South Florida Sun Sentinel*



Trinidad and Tobago Records Fifth Dengue-Related Death

Trinidad and Tobago Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh has confirmed that the country has recorded its fifth death linked to the dengue virus.

"As we record our fifth laboratory-confirmed dengue-related death, I take the opportunity to inform the public that all state agencies continue to work collaboratively to reduce the mosquito population as far as possible," Deyalsingh said in a release from the Ministry of Health.

In its epidemiological update on Wednesday, the ministry reported 450 laboratory-confirmed cases of dengue fever

and five confirmed deaths in the Caribbean country. On July 12, Dr. Avery Hinds, Technical Director of Epidemiology at the Ministry of Health, noted in a news conference that there were 229 confirmed cases and two deaths at that time, pending the next batch update from the laboratory.

Deyalsingh reminded the public "of the vital role to be played in clearing all possible sources where clean, clear, standing water exists in their homes and properties, which is where the mosquito can live and breed."



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US Warns About Travel To These Caribbean Island



The US is warning about travel to Trinidad and Tobago as well as Jamaica.

The United States is warning nationals about travel to both Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The US State department has issued a Level Three travel advisory for both countries, urging nationals to reconsider travel due to crime.

The advisory comes as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago both mark their 62nd independence anniversaries, on August 6th and August 31st, respectively.

JAMAICA

In the case of Jamaica, the advisory warns Americans to “exercise increased caution regarding medical services.” The US also listed some off-limit locations for U.S. embassy personnel throughout Jamaica. They are:

- **St. Ann’s Parish** - Steer Town and the Buckfield neighbourhood near Ocho Rios
- **St. Catherine’s Parish** - Spanish Town, Central Village, areas within Portmore, including: Naggo Head, New Land, Old Braeton, Portmore Lane, Gregory Park, and

Waterford

- **Clarendon Parish** - all of Clarendon Parish, except passing through Clarendon Parish using the T1 and A2 highways.

- **St. Elizabeth’s Parish** - Vineyard District Community, between the communities of Salt Spring and Burnt Savanna, St. Elizabeth

- **Hanover Parish** - Logwood and Orange Bay

- **St. James Parish/Montego Bay** - Inland side of the A1 highway and The Queen’s Drive from San San to Harmony Beach Park

- **Kingston and St. Andrew Parish** - Cassava Piece, Duhaney Park, Grants Pen, Standpipe, Swallowfield, Elleston Flats, August Town, and downtown Kingston, defined as between Mountain View Avenue and Hagley Park Road, and south of Half Way Tree and Old Hope Roads. Downtown Kingston includes Arnett Gardens, Cockburn Gardens, Denham Town, Olympic Gardens, Seaview Gardens, Trench Town, and Tivoli

Gardens.

- **Manchester Parish** - Green Vale, Gray Ground, Red Ground, and Vineyard neighborhoods of Mandeville

- **St. Thomas Parish** - Black Lane neighborhood in Seaford, Grands Penn, Church Corner neighborhood near Yallahs, Town of Yallahs, except when driving through on the main highway.

- **Trelawny Parish** - Clarks Town

- **Westmoreland Parish** - Russia community in Savanna-la-Mar (The Southeastern quadrant of Savannah la Mar east of Darling Street and south of the A2 highway/Barracks Road), Morgan Bay, Kings Valley, The Whitehall, Bethel Town, and Red Ground neighborhoods of Negril.

T&T

In T&T’s case, the advisory highlights the need for increased caution due to terrorism and kidnapping risks. Specific areas identified as high-risk include:

- **Laventille**
- **Beetham**
- **Sea Lots**
- **Cocorite**,
- and the interior of Queens’ Park Savannah in Port of Spain.

U.S. government personnel are prohibited from travelling to these areas. Additionally, travel to downtown Port of Spain, Fort George overlook, and all beaches is restricted for U.S. personnel after dark.

The US also warns of frequent violence and shootings in certain parts of Port of Spain, describing violent crimes such

as murder, robbery, assault, sexual assault, home invasion, and kidnapping as common occurrences. It also notes significant gang-related activity, particularly narcotics trafficking, contributing to the high levels of violence.

“A significant portion of violent crime is gang-related,” states the advisory. “Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas.”

U.S. Department of State provides several recommendations for travel to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica:

- Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

- Review the Country Security Reports.
- Use caution when walking or driving at night.
- Be wary of meeting individuals met through social media or dating apps.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not display overt signs of wealth, such as expensive watches or jewellery.
- Be extra vigilant when visiting ATMs.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.
- Follow the instructions of local authorities.

The advisory also emphasizes the importance of being cautious and aware of one’s surroundings, especially in high-risk areas. Travellers are advised to avoid displaying wealth and to take extra precautions when using ATMs or meeting new acquaintances through social media or dating apps.

- [NewsAmericasNow.com](https://newsamericasnow.com)



New Caribbean Flights Coming

The Caribbean is set to see a significant increase in flights, providing more options for travellers and boosting tourism across several islands.

American Airlines Expands Chicago-Nassau Route

American Airlines is making a notable expansion of its Chicago O’Hare-Nassau route. Starting December 5, 2024, the airline will offer daily nonstop flights on Boeing 737 aircraft, just in time for the peak winter season. This decision comes as Nassau Paradise Island reports impressive tourism numbers, with around 2 million air and cruise visitors so far in 2024, according to the Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board.

Grand Bahama Island to Receive Enhanced Airlift

Grand Bahama Island is preparing for a substantial boost in airlift this fall, continuing its tourism growth trend. Following a record-breaking 2023 with a 33% increase in foreign air arrivals, the island will see new services from Westernair and Bahamasair. Westernair will launch flights between Fort Lauderdale and Freeport in late August, while Bahamasair will enhance its Fort Lauderdale-Freeport route from September 6 to October 3, 2024.

American Airlines will resume daily flights to Freeport on October 3, increasing to twice-daily service from Miami in November and adding a new Saturday service from Charlotte. Bahamasair will also introduce a new route between West Palm Beach and Freeport on November 17, 2024, complementing existing services from Orlando.

This year has already seen the return of flights from Montreal, Milan, and Orlando, with new interline agreements signed with Virgin Atlantic and Alaska Airlines. An upcoming agreement with Turkish Airlines in September will further expand travel options.

New Service to South Caicos

And American Airlines will begin non-stop service to South Caicos, Turks & Caicos from Miami starting February 15, 2025. The twice-weekly flights will operate on Embraer 175 aircraft, offering 76 seats, including 12 first-class. This service will coincide with the opening of Salterra, A Luxury Collection Resort and Spa, adding to the island’s appeal alongside Sail Rock Resort.

Minister of Tourism, Josephine Connolly, highlighted that this new service aligns with the policy to diversify tourism offerings and promote economic development in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Alvin Hegner, Chairman of Experience Turks and Caicos, expressed excitement about enhancing South Caicos’ tourism product in anticipation of the influx of visitors.

The flights from Miami to South Caicos will depart at 10:05 AM, arriving at 12:27 PM, and will return at 1:44 PM, arriving in Miami at 3:55 PM.

This increase in flights across the Caribbean promises to enhance connectivity, support local economies, and provide travellers with more options to explore these beautiful destinations.

- [NewsAmericasNow.com](https://newsamericasnow.com)



Two Caribbean Destinations Named Among Top 10 Family Beach Vacation Ideas

San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Turks & Caicos have secured spots in the latest TripAdvisor Top 10 beach vacation ideas for families. San Juan claimed the number 2 position, while Turks & Caicos landed in 7th place. Leading the list is Hilton Head, South Carolina, USA. Crete, Greece, ranked third, with O’ahu, Hawaii, in fourth place. Zanzibar, Tanzania, took fifth, and San Diego, CA, came in sixth. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama, secured 8th place, Cancun, Mexico, 9th, and Pensacola, Florida, rounded out the list in 10th place.

Here’s what you need to know about choosing either Puerto Rico or Turks & Caicos for your next family vacation:

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Who should go: Families seeking a tropical vacation with a rich cultural experience.

The beach scene: Condado and Isla Verde beaches offer calm, clear waters and bustling stretches of sand, each with a unique vibe. Condado, located in the city center, is surrounded by high-rise hotels and trendy restaurants, with colorful loungers and umbrellas

for rent. Isla Verde Beach, near the airport, offers a more relaxed atmosphere with large palm trees providing ample shade.

Don’t miss: Visit Castillo San Felipe del Morro, where kids under 15 enter free. This ancient fortress is steeped in history, best explored with a ranger-led tour.

Restaurant report: Enjoy street food at the kiosks at Piñones, a scenic boardwalk and bike trail near Playa Torrecillas. Try the alcapurrias at Kiosko El Boricua, and savour mofongo at Pannes. For seafood lovers, El Nuevo Acuario is a must-visit.

Where to stay: Stay at the 352 Guest House Hotel Boutique in Old San Juan for a mix of beach time and city sights. For a blend of pool and beach time, La Concha Renaissance Resort offers three pools and access to Condado Beach.

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos

Who should go: Those seeking relaxed tropical beaches and abundant snorkelling opportunities.

The beach scene: Grace Bay Beach, with its 12 miles of calm waves and sugar-white sand, frequently tops “best beaches”

lists. Families also enjoy other island beaches like Little Water Cay (Iguana Island), Pine Cay, Parrot Cay, and West Caicos, known for their low tides.

Don’t miss: Strong swimmers should snorkel through Bight Reef to see turtles, rays, and coral. Alternatively, take a catamaran tour to explore more remote reefs.

Restaurant report: Enjoy fried conch at Da Conch Shack, where you can pick your own conch from the nearby dining bar. For a Caribbean-Italian dîner experience, visit Vita Restaurant, perched atop jagged rocks with ocean views.

Where to stay: Windsong on The Reef offers complimentary water activities like paddle boarding and kayaking. Alternatively, the all-inclusive Beaches Turks and Caicos features an on-site water park and bunk rooms for kids, plus 19 restaurants for parents to enjoy without added costs.

Plan your next family vacation to these Caribbean paradises for an unforgettable beach experience.

- [NewsAmericasNow.com](https://newsamericasnow.com)



SPORTS NEWS



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Caribbean Athletes Shine At Paris Olympics

St. Lucian born sprinter Julien Alfred and Dominica-born Thea La Fond made history for their individual countries on August 3rd in Paris while uniting Caribbean nationals globally in joy and celebration as other athletes kept the small region in the winning circle.

St. Lucian born sprinter Julien Alfred is now the fastest woman in the world, winning the finals of the women's 100-m and besting the much-touted American runner, Sha'Carri Richardson at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Stade de France in Saint-Denis.

La Fond, meanwhile, produced her gold winning leap on her second attempt, adding to her triumph at the World Indoor Championships in Glasgow earlier this year while erasing the disappointment at last year's World Championship in Budapest when she finished fifth. The 30-year-old produced a new national record 15.02 metres in the women's triple jump, to also clinch her country's maiden medal at an Olympic Games and spark similar euphoria in Roseau.

ALFRED

"It feels amazing to be honest. After waking up this morning I wrote it down: Julien Alfred – Olympic champion," Alfred told reporters after the win. "So I think just believing in myself and trusting that I could

do it is what really mattered to me. I'm going through the motions right now – it hasn't sunk in yet. I had to go out there, trust myself, trust my coach and most importantly trust God."

Alfred won in a time of 10.72 to Richardson's 10.87. American Melissa Jefferson took bronze (10.92). For her home country, it's the first Olympic medal of any kind. Alfred, 23, also set a new national



St Lucia's Julien Alfred celebrates after winning the women's 100m final of the athletics event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on August 3, 2024. (Photo by MARTIN BERNETTI/AFP via Getty Images)



Thea La Fond of Dominica clinched her country's maiden medal at an Olympic Games with a gold medal in the women's triple jump. (AFP via Getty Images)

record of 10.72 s. She is coached by Edrick Floreal, the man



Lindon Victor grabbed bronze for Grenada in the decathlon at the Paris Olympics. (AFP via Getty Images)

behind the rich athletic careers of athletes like Rhasidat Adeleke and Leo Neugebauer. Born in the south Castries

community of Ciceron, Julien Alfred attended Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary School in Saint Lucia from 2013



Kishane Thomas of Jamaica was forced to settle for silver in the men's 100 metres at the Paris Olympics. (AFP via Getty Images)

to 2015, and then moved to Jamaica at age 14 where she attended the St. Catherine High School from 2015 to 2018. She then pursued a bachelor's degree in Youth & Community Studies at the University of Texas in the United States, balancing

her academic and athletic commitments.

St Lucia's Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre celebrated

Alfred's achievement, posting on his Facebook page: "Today is great day for OECS member states and the people of the

Caribbean! In one day Saint Lucia and Dominica have created history by winning our first Olympic medal and bringing home the GOLD.

"Congratulations to Saint Lucia's very own, Julien Alfred for winning gold in the Women's 100m ..."

LA FOND

"This season wasn't easy but we did it when it mattered and that's what counts," La Fond said. "All that matters is what happened tonight."

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit was quick to congratulate La Fond on the behalf of a grateful nation.

"Your outstanding accomplishment on the global stage fills our nation with immense pride and joy," he wrote on his Facebook page. "We celebrate your success and hope that your dedication and perseverance will inspire future generations of athletes in Dominica. Thank you for always representing our country with such grace and dignity. Your triumph in Paris stands among

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

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Sheriff Gregory Tony, Ph.D.
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SPORTS NEWS



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Did You Know The US' Olympic Swim Team Coach Was Born In The Caribbean?

Anthony Nesty's role as the US Olympic men's swimming head coach is a vision fulfilled. Nesty, who was born in the Caribbean Community nation of Trinidad and Tobago but grew up in Suriname, was named head coach last fall. He led the US men's swim team at the 2024 Paris Olympics in what was a groundbreaking and historic appointment.

Nesty, 56, initially only swam because his father made him. "I didn't enjoy swimming," he shared in an interview with TODAY.com recently. "Why he chose swimming, I think, is because of the discipline of the sport. It's just you and the clock."

Nesty's first swim at age five was in Suriname, where he grew up. At the time, the country had only one 50-meter pool. What began as a reluctant activity turned into a distinguished career, culminating in his appointment as the head coach for the men's Olympic team for the 2024 Games in Paris, making him the first Black person to hold this position in U.S. Olympic swimming history. He previously served as an assistant

coach for the Tokyo Games.

"My dad, he had a vision for me," said Nesty.

Nesty's journey to the top began with victories in local and regional meets across Suriname, the Caribbean, and South America. His specialty, the butterfly stroke, earned him a gold medal in the 100-meter race at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, making him the first Black male swimmer to win individual gold.

Nesty continued his swimming career at the University of Florida on an athletic scholarship, becoming a three-time NCAA champion in the 100-yard butterfly from 1990 to 1992.

As a prominent Black swim coach in a predominantly white sport, Nesty understands the significance of his role. "You know you're a role model," he told The Associated Press in June 2023. "You have to take that very seriously. Maybe it's why I work so hard at what I do. I try to be the best Anthony Nesty I can be."

Nesty's ascension to US Olympic swim team head coach is particularly significant given



Caribbean born Anthony Nesty, the first black Head Coach of Team United States Men's Swim Team. (Mike Stoby/Getty)

the complicated history of Black people and swimming in the U.S. Access to swimming facilities directly correlates to whether Black people swim, a barrier Nesty and experts are keenly aware of.

Anthony Nesty moved to Florida as a teenager to pursue swimming more seriously. He attended the Bolles School in Jacksonville, where the rigorous practice routine was a stark contrast to his previous training in Suriname. "We used to only train five days a week, Monday through Friday, maybe two hours per

practice," he said. "And then you come to the States, you're running nine practices, two hours-plus, dry land, weights. For me, I had to get adjusted to that for sure."

Despite the challenges, Nesty thrived, advancing to collegiate and Olympic competition. Reflecting on his achievements, he said, "I stay busy preparing the athletes. I don't think of my accomplishments. Our sport is demanding for the athletes, the coaches, the families. I want to be the best coach for the University of Florida and of course this summer for us."

Nesty's father, who invested significant time, effort, and financial support into his son's swimming career, would be thrilled to see how far Nesty has come. "He would be jumping up and down to see that his son is the head coach of the U.S. men's team," Nesty said. "That's kind of the pinnacle of our sport and he would be happy that I've reached the top now."

In recent years, the sport has seen contributions from standout Black swimmers such as Simone

Manuel, Lia Neal, and Natalie Hinds. "It's very encouraging," Nesty said of the increased representation in swimming. "The sport is going to keep growing. There are a lot of opportunities for all races to get scholarships in our sport."

Despite these advancements, racial disparities in swimming persist. A 2023 demographics report by USA Swimming revealed that only 2.1% of athlete members identified as Black or African American, while 62.4% identified as white.

Nesty believes the lack of Black swimmers in the sport is more of a socioeconomic issue than one based on ability. "It's also very expensive," he noted. "And you have to find a pool."

For Nesty, creating a welcoming environment on his teams is paramount. "Whichever team you belong to, you're going to be welcomed with open arms because the sport is so demanding," he said. "You have to have empathy for each other. I

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Caribbean Athletes Shine At Paris Olympics

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

our proudest moments as a nation!"

JAMAICA

While Jamaican fans globally were stunned by news that three-time Olympic gold medallist, Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, and Shericka Jackson, the reigning World 200 metres champion, had pulled out of their races, fans still had something to cheer about both on August 3rd and August 4th.

On August 3rd, Shanieka Ricketts measured a season-best 14.87 to finish with silver in the triple jump while Rajindra Campbell took bronze in the men's shot put with a mark of 22.15 metres.

AGONY

There was anguish for Jamaican fans again on August 5th when Kishane Thompson of Jamaica came agonisingly close to capturing gold in the men's 100 metres at the Paris Olympics

ahead of the boisterous American Noah Lyles.

In one of the closest ever finishes in the event in Olympics history, Thompson and Lyles both clocked 9.79 seconds in a pulsating final that had to be determined by a photo finish.

Lyles' teammate Fred Kerley won bronze in 9.81 seconds. Initially, it appeared as though the burly 23-year-old Thompson had crossed the line first. However, following the use of the photo finish technology,

Lyles (9.784) was declared the winner ahead of Thompson (9.789).

Lyles, who together with Thompson watched the big screen anxiously as they awaited the winner to be announced, raised his hands in triumph before taking off for a lap of honour around the track when the decision was made. A dejected looking Thompson could only look on in disbelief. He was hoping to become the first Jamaican man to win the event since Usain Bolt in 2016, got off to a fast start and led the field after 65 metres.

"Honestly it's not just that I didn't win the gold, it's that I didn't better myself in that sense," a devastated Thompson said after the final.

GRENADA

Meanwhile, Grenadian Lindon Victor pulled out the stops to also clinch bronze in the men's decathlon with 8711 points to put his country on the medal table as of press time on August 5th. He is just the second athlete – behind Kirani James – to win a medal for Grenada at the Olympics.

His outstanding achievement was recognized by Grenada's Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, who described Victor as "one of the greatest athletes in the world."

"The Government of Grenada congratulates Mr Lindon Victor, OBE, on his amazing performance at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Government expresses its deepest gratitude to Mr Victor



Silver medallist Shanieka Ricketts, (right) of Jamaica reacts with gold medallist Thea LaFond of Dominica in the women's triple jump. (AFP via Getty Images)

for his continued stellar representation of our nation on the world stage," a press release from the Prime Minister's Office stated.

"Once again, Lindon Victor has shown that he is one of the greatest athletes in the world by copping bronze in the decathlon, giving Grenada its first medal at the Paris Olympics.

"His determination and perseverance embody the Grenadian spirit and its testimony to his dedication and persistent pursuit of excellence," it added.

CUBA/DR

Meanwhile, Arlen Lopez landed Cuba its first medal of this Olympics, taking bronze in the Men's 80 KG Boxing competition while Yunior Reyes and Cristian Javier Pinales of the Dominican Republic, also placed their country on the medals table, winning bronze in their Men's 51 KG and Men's 80 KG boxing matchups.

The Olympics wraps up on August 11th.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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West Indies Ready To Take On South Africa

Cricket West Indies, (CWI), has announced the squad for the upcoming home Test series against South Africa, scheduled to take place from August 7 to 19, 2024. The series will consist of two Test matches, with the first held at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad and Tobago and the second at the National Stadium in Guyana.

Key changes to the squad include the omission of out-of-form batsman Kirk McKenzie and the resting of vice-captain Alzarri Joseph. Kumar Roach, who was injured during the recent series against England, returns to strengthen the bowling attack. Additionally, Keacy Carty and Tevin Imlach have been called up to bolster the batting lineup. The squad, led by captain Kraigg Brathwaite with Joshua Da Silva as vice-captain, features Alick Athanaze, Keacy Carty, Bryan Charles, Justin Greaves, Jason Holder, Kavem Hodge,

Tevin Imlach, Shamar Joseph, Mikyle Louis, Gudakesh Motie, Kumar Roach, Jayden Seales, and Jomel Warrican. This combination reflects a balanced mix of seasoned players and promising young talents, strategically selected to maximize performance in Trinidad and Guyana.

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, expressed confidence in the squad's ability to deliver strong performances against South Africa. "The selection process for this squad was led by our Head Coach, Andre Coley, pending the implementation of our new selection process, which will be rolled out in the coming days and articulated publicly shortly. This squad reflects a thorough evaluation of players' recent performances and suitability for the conditions we anticipate. We are confident that this team is well-balanced and capable of

competing at the highest level," Bascombe said.

Head Coach Coley emphasized the strategic selection of a balanced mix of experience and youth to maximize performance in Trinidad and Guyana. He explained the decision to rest Alzarri Joseph, citing his recent heavy workload and the need for recuperation to ensure peak performance. "Kevin Sinclair is presently recovering from an injury," Coley added.

The full schedule for the series is as follows:

Test Series:

1st Test: August 7-11, 2024, Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad and Tobago

2nd Test: August 15-18, 2024, National Stadium, Guyana

T20I Series:

1st T20I: August 23, 2024, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago

2nd T20I: August 25, 2024, Brian

Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago

3rd T20I: August 27, 2024, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad and Tobago

This upcoming series promises exciting cricket action as the West Indies team, with a blend of experienced players and fresh talent, takes on South Africa on home turf.



A New Head Coach For The Reggae Boyz

The Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF), has announced the appointment of Stephen McClaren as the Head Coach of the senior Reggae Boyz team. McClaren, who has signed a two-year contract, will focus on securing Jamaica's qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

JFF president Michael Ricketts expressed his enthusiasm about McClaren's appointment, saying: "We are truly elated to announce the appointment of Mr. McClaren as Head Coach of the Reggae Boyz. We are confident we made the right decision and look forward to him guiding our nation towards the 2026 FIFA World Cup."

McClaren shared his excitement about taking on the role, stating, "I am extremely proud and excited to take up the position of Head Coach for The Jamaica Men's National Team. I had no hesitation in accepting a position that is ideally suited to me at this stage of my career."

He added, "Before returning to Manchester United for a second spell, I worked with FIFA as a Technical Advisor on their Global Eco Analysis project, where I quickly recognized Jamaica's potential. Since then, that potential has grown significantly, and I believe that with continued hard



Stephen McClaren is the new Reggae Boyz head coach. (UK Sun image)

work and development, a bright future lies ahead."

McClaren's coaching career includes notable achievements with Manchester United, the England national team, Middlesbrough F.C., and FC Twente.

The Reggae Boyz will begin their campaign in the 2024/2025 edition of the CONCACAF Nations League on September 6 against Cuba at the National Stadium. This Nations League cycle will also serve as a qualifier for the 2025 edition of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Further details about McClaren's first press conference will be announced later.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



Did You Know The US' Olympic Swim Team Coach Was Born In The Caribbean?

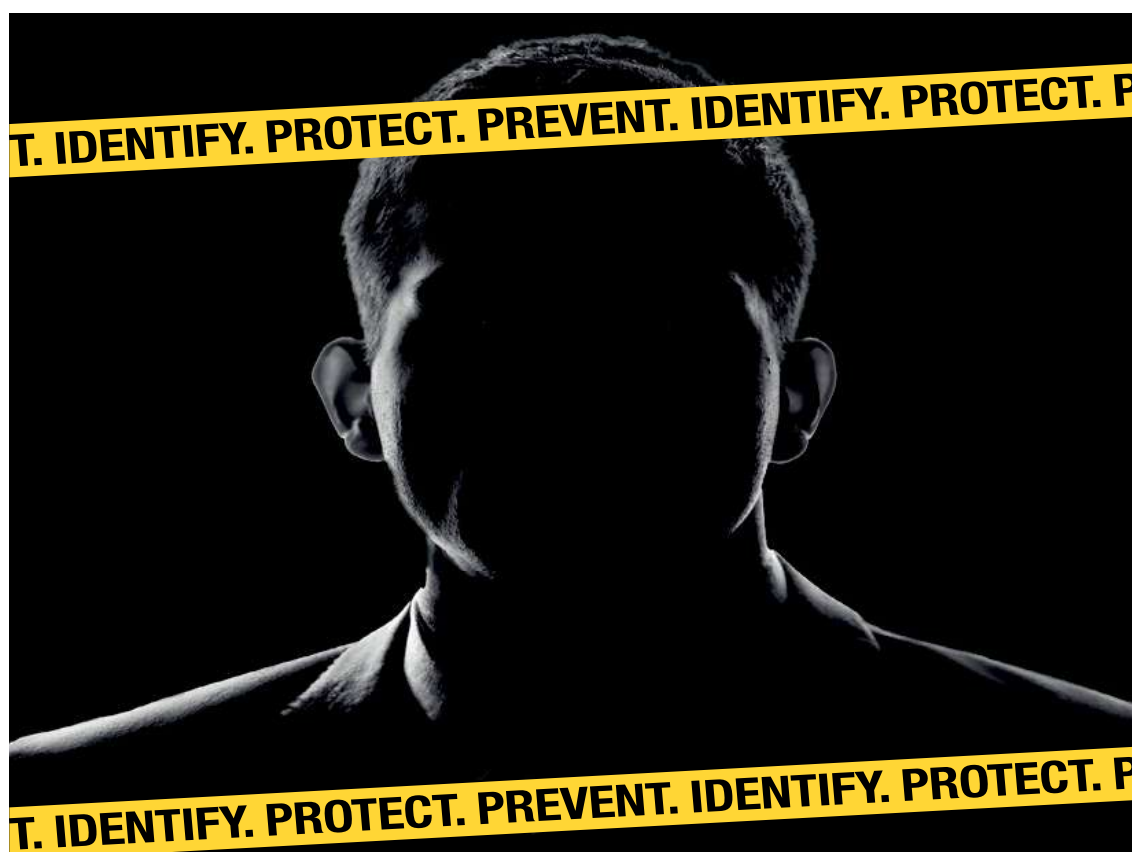
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

tell our athletes you got to respect the athlete next to you because you guys are doing the same thing. If you do it as a group, it becomes more palatable. It becomes more fun, and that's the experience I had as a swimmer. And I would love to hear the athletes of colour, when they join a team, sense that they

have that camaraderie."

As Nesty leads the U.S. men's swimming team to the Paris Olympics, his story serves as an inspiration, highlighting the importance of perseverance, representation, and breaking barriers in sports.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



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There's Still Time to Save On Back To School Essentials

With just days to go before school starts in Florida on August 12th, the state is making school supplies more affordable. During the Florida back-to-school sales tax holiday, sales tax will be suspended for certain items through August 11th.

The following items are exempt from sales tax: **Personal computers and accessories for non-commercial use, priced at \$1,500 or less:**

- Personal computers (including calculators, desktops, electronic book readers, handhelds,

laptops, tablets, tower computers)

- Personal computer-related accessories (including keyboards, mice, modems, monitors, nonrecreational software, other peripheral devices, personal digital

assistants, routers)

Items priced at \$100 or less each:

- Clothing
- All footwear (excluding skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates)
- Any article of wearing apparel intended to be worn on or about the human body (excluding watches, watchbands, jewellery, umbrellas, and handkerchiefs)
- Wallets or bags (including backpacks, diaper bags, fanny packs, handbags; excluding briefcases, suitcases, and other garment bags)

School supplies priced at \$50 or less each:

- Binders

- Cellophane tape
- Compasses
- Composition books
- Computer disks
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Folders
- Glue or paste
- Legal pads
- Lunch boxes
- Markers
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- Pencils
- Pens
- Poster board
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- Staplers and staples used to secure paper products
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles priced at \$30 or less:
- Flashcards or other learning cards
- Interactive or electronic books and toys intended to teach reading or math skills
- Matching or other memory games
- Puzzle books and search-and-find books
- Stacking or nesting blocks or sets

For more information about the sales tax holiday, visit the Florida Department of Revenue website.



Everything You Need To Know About Borrowing Money For College

College-related costs are at an all-time high, and while many parents harbour concerns about the expense, they value the education their child is receiving. That's according to the April 2024 College Ave survey. The survey found that while 89% of parents of four-year college students believe a college degree is important for their child's future, 78% agree that paying for college is stressful.

"Families today are relying on a mix of sources to fund

college, including scholarships, federal aid and grants, income and savings, and in some cases, private student loans," says Angela Colatriano, chief marketing officer, College Ave.

According to Colatriano, it's critical to understand the ins and outs of borrowing for college before taking out a loan. If you believe your family will take this path, here's everything you need to know:

1. Exhaust other options

Many experts agree that private

loans only make sense once other financial aid options are exhausted. After filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), you'll receive a financial aid package from each school, which may include scholarships, grants and federal student loans. If your selected school is one of the 400 institutions that requires the CSS profile, submit that application, too to qualify for institutional aid. And of course, don't forget to apply to private scholarships to access funds that don't need to be repaid.

2. Do the math

Federal student loans in the student's name offer unique benefits, so if you do need to borrow, start there. If you decide that a private student loan or private parent loan is also right for your family, borrow only the minimum amount needed to save over the life of the loan. This is a good time to explore additional avenues for reducing your financing needs, such as renting textbooks, and buying groceries versus paying into the school meal plan.

3. Understand loan costs

Unlike federal loans, which have fixed interest rates for all

borrowers, private student loans offer a choice of fixed or variable interest rates. Shop around for a lender that doesn't charge origination fees, and learn the difference between fixed and variable interest rates. Use CollegeAve.com's student loan calculator to get a sense of the overall cost of a given loan and its monthly loan payments.

4. Compare lender repayment options

Another factor to consider when shopping for a lender is repayment terms. Some lenders, like College Ave, let borrowers choose how long they want to repay their loan, and whether to start making payments immediately or defer until after graduation. The important thing is to select a loan with budget-friendly terms and a monthly payment you can live with.

5. Apply with a co-signer

Private student loan lenders look at income and credit history to determine a student's ability to repay the loan. If approved, their credit history also impacts

the interest rate they're offered. Many college students don't have an established credit history or sufficient income and may not get approved for a private loan on their own. Your student can improve their chances of getting approved and securing a lower interest rate by adding a cosigner to their loan application. The cosigner should understand that they share equal responsibility for repayment if the student falls behind on payments.

Bottom line? Researching financial aid options, applying for scholarships and being a strategic borrower can help your family get on with what matters most: preparing for a bright future.

- StatePoint



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**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Miami-Dade Students Gain Valuable Work Experience and Career Insights

Sheldon Verneret spent the summer before his senior year as an intern at Santander Bank on Brickell as part of the Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP), shadowing people in accounting and risk management to learn about the banking business from the inside to see if it's a career he could pursue.

"I got a preview into what an accounting career would be like and that was helpful since I hope to open my own accounting firm one day," said Verneret, who graduated from William H. Turner Technical Arts High School and now attends Florida State University.

Verneret is one of hundreds of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students who

have participated in SYIP.

The program, now in its ninth year, pairs 10th- to 12th-grade students with employers for five weeks from July 1st to August 4th. The student interns work 30 hours five days a week, and are paid by SYIP, not employers. Students earn high school credit for the internship and in some cases, college credit.

So far, 786 employers have signed up and been paired with 3,238 from 97 schools.

M-DCPS is partnering with The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County, Career Source South Florida, EdFed – The Educational Federal Credit Union, and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives to offer these internships. These

partners have invested \$6.25 million in this year's SYIP.

Students participating in the SYIP work in a variety of fields that interest them, ranging from law offices to hotels. In addition to work experience, students collaborate with employers and co-workers from diverse backgrounds, all leading to students who become confident in their ability to work with others and express themselves in a professional way.

For employers, this is an opportunity to help high school students gain work experience and learn about a future career. But the employers benefit too.

Students have been placed in Miami Dade County offices, veterinary offices, restaurants, engineering firms, daycare centers, law offices, and many other fascinating places. They are even entrenched at the School Board Administration building downtown.

In one case, an intern from long ago now is paving the way for new SYIP interns, Bernardo Pinheiro, the new Director of Human Resources at the Miami Beach Convention Center, was

once an intern at that location. This summer he hired six SYIP interns to work in accounts, events and human resources.

All new and former employers interested in

participating in SYIP must register at miamiinterns.org and can hire up to 10 interns during the program.



Your Back To School Style Starts Here



With the first day of school just around the corner, it's important for students to arrive with confidence in footwear that meets their style and function needs.

To help make school shopping a bit easier, Rack Room Shoes is offering families advice about this back-to-school season's top shoe trends:

1. Elevated

From colour-blocked to classic-inspired sneakers, your favourite brands like Nike, Converse, Vans and Crocs are offering trends that will complement a variety of outfits and become wardrobe staples.

2. Retro

Take a step back in time with retro and Y2K looks from Adidas, Puma and New Balance. These brands offer an assortment of designs and take it back old school.

3. Comfy

Staying indoors or lounging in the dorm? Crocs, HEYDUDE and Birkenstock offer laidback, comfortable choices ranging from fuzzy-lined styles to lightweight and flexible cushion slides.

4. Bold

Want your first impression to be memorable? Glitter, embellished toe caps and a wide selection of bright colours are your best friends. And this season's collaborations with Sanrio, Disney and My Little Pony bring favourite characters to life. You'll be sure to find your pair of statement makers.

5. Sporty Accessories

Be in style and learn with style. For this school year, choose a backpack from a variety of colours, patterns, materials and brands. Rack Room Shoes has backpacks with the needed space for every textbook, laptop or water bottle; featuring padded shoulder straps or a back panel for comfortable carrying.

For more back-to-school style inspiration, visit a Rack Room Shoes in your area or online at rackroomshoes.com. Whether it's to make a bold first impression, raise the bar, or let old school meet new school, the right pair of shoes can give kids the confidence they need to step into a brand-new school year.

- StatePoint



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BLACK BUSINESS MONTH



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Key Biscayne Fitness - Only Black-Owned Business On The Island - Turns 1

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

A chance meeting as Uber passengers between Vince Smith and Caribbean American DeCue King turned into a business partnership of a lifetime.

Smith and King, all around athletes in football, mixed martial arts, basketball, baseball, wrestling, boxing and weightlifting, opened up Key Biscayne Fitness, a one-story, 800-square foot facility with exercising equipment to keep clients in tip-top shape.

The fitness center at 660 Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, FL 33149, is currently the only Black-owned business in the area, and only the second African/Caribbean-American company to open up shop in the island's history, according to the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce.

The business is celebrating its one-year anniversary, which started out with 30 clients and has grown to 150. The fitness center offers training in weightlifting, intense physical exercises, mixed martial arts, boxing, youth development and Coa therapy to strengthen mental wellness.

Smith, 40, said he teaches his students to focus more on good health rather than their physique. "Of course the message is to stay fit," he said.



Caribbean American DeCue King, co-founder of Key Biscayne Fitness. (Photo credit: Key Biscayne Fitness)

"But health is very important. You can look good on the outside but not look good on the inside. I care more about health."

Smith, a former college football running back who has an affinity for sculpting his body, is among 0.3 percent Blacks who live in Key Biscayne, while 74 percent are Hispanics and 26 percent whites, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

He said while living on Key Biscayne for the past four years, he has seen few Blacks and a lot of Hispanics on the barrier island. "Do I feel uncomfortable?" he asked "No. Some people look on the outside and assume who you are but when they come to the studio, they say: 'this is a nice guy.'"

After training people via Zoom during the COVID-19

pandemic, Smith decided to open the facility with King, who lives in Brickell. Before he moved to South Florida, Smith said he was a valet parking attendant in Georgia and frequently exercised to stay fit.

He said the pandemic was a silver lining for him after he lost his job and moved to Miami to start a new life. While working out one day, Smith didn't realize training people was his true calling until after training his sister via zoom.

As a result, she lost 30 pounds. "That's when it clicked and I said to myself: 'This is what I'm meant to do.'"

Smith started training people on his patio but the space wasn't big enough to accommodate his growing clients and sought a bigger location. Riding with



Vince Smith, co-founder of Key Biscayne Fitness. (Photo credit: Key Biscayne Fitness)

King, 37, in an Uber, the two realized they had an affinity for fitness and training people to help them reach the pinnacle of mental and physical health.

King said after he crashed his motorcycle and suffered an acute concussion and a seizure, he struggled to work out but Smith got him going again. "When I met Vince, I hadn't worked out in five months," King said. "He tried to get me back to normal and we talked about opening the center together."

Another tragedy in King's life sparked his passion for exercising and competing in boxing and mixed martial arts competitions. King, who is of Caribbean heritage, grew up in Boston and was a robbery victim. He was shot there when

he was 20-years-old and his life changed forever after the incident.

Though he survived the attack, King said he had to learn how to walk again and doctors told him he would never play sports again. He proved them wrong.

After months of rigorous therapy and rehabilitation, King was walking on his own again and began taking mixed martial arts and other self defense classes to be prepared if he encountered another armed robber.

"The shooting made me want to take martial arts and boxing to gain self confidence and fight off attackers," he said. King said he was an amateur boxer for eight years and then competed in mixed-martial arts competitions including in Thailand.

He said some of the kids he trains at the fitness center are the same children he currently coaches in flag football and basketball in Key Biscayne. He also trained amateur boxers who turned pro.

"I work with a lot of the kids in Key Biscayne, some I coach, and they are excited and thrilled to be learning at the center," King said.



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Election Fever 2024 - Here's What You Should Know About This Month's Primary Elections

REPORTED BY
DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

The 2024 election season is in full gear and the races for local political offices are heating up for the August 20th Primary.

The local races in Miami-Dade and Broward counties could be impacted by President Joe Biden's decision to drop out of the race following his poor debate performance with Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for President.

With Vice President Kamala Harris now all but formally nominated to lead the party and the ballot as the Democratic candidate for President, the energy is transferring to the Dems. races in Florida.

Democrats here are seeking to hold on to their seats and flip seats blue, even as Republicans want to keep a stranglehold on the U.S. Congress, the Florida Legislature and local offices.

Caribbean American candidates and voters are playing major roles in the upcoming Primary this month, and are also expected to do the same this November.

Miami-Dade Mayoral Elections

In the August Primary, voters will choose a candidate for Miami-Dade mayor as incumbent Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



faces six challengers - including chief rivals Miami Lakes Mayor Manny Cid and political activist and comedian Alex Otaola. Though the race is non-partisan, Cava is a Democrat and Cid and Otaola are both Republicans.

Miami-Dade County Sheriff

Meanwhile, for the first time since 1966, voters will pick a Miami-Dade County Sheriff. Twelve Republicans and three Democrats are vying for the position in the Primary which was re-instated after Florida voters' approval.

Three Democratic seats are safe for now, as local Haitian-American candidates, U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, State Representative Dotie Joseph and Coral Springs City Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen, each run unopposed - as no one qualified

to run against them in their respective races.

Cherfilus-McCormick, representing District 20 which covers portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties, is the only Haitian American woman Democrat in Congress, and Bowen is the first Black and Haitian-American woman ever to serve on the Coral Springs City Commission.

Joseph, who represents District 108 which includes portions of Liberty City and North Miami, won a third term in political office.

Metayer Bowen, who first won a seat on the commission in a crowded field in 2020, said running unopposed says a lot about her work in Coral Springs. She has focused on sustainability and environmental issues during her first term, such as creating the city's first sustainability office

and pushing the city to hire its first sustainability manager.

House District 105

For Florida House District 105, State Rep. Marie Woodson, also a Haitian American, is seeking a third term, but faces Libertarian Party political new-comer Hlavka in the Primary. House District 105 seat covers areas including Sheridan Street to the Broward County line, University Drive and Dixie Highway.

Woodson was first elected to the House in 2020 as the first Haitian American from Broward County and won reelection in 2022.

According to his resume, Hlavka, who works at a car rental service at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, says he's running because he believes the district, which is among the most heavily Democratic in the state according to voting data, has been offered "minimal options" and wants another option.

As an advocate for limited government, Hlavka proposes ending the gas tax and emphasizes his willingness to engage in bipartisan dialogue.

House District 110

For House District 110, political novice Stanley Yves Jean Poix, a retired police lieutenant with the City of Miami, is challenging

State Rep. Tom Fabricio, an attorney.

Poix, also a Haitian American, originally filed paperwork to run in House District 107, but the Democratic Party convinced him to switch to HD 110 to give them a shot at winning the seat.

HD 107 is a crowded field with all Democratic candidates and Fabricio would have won by default had Poix not challenged him. HD 110 covers areas including Miramar, Miami Lakes, a portion of Hialeah, an enclave in Northwest Miami-Dade and an unincorporated vicinity in Northeast Miami-Dade.

Poix, who was a police officer for 25 years, said his political platform focuses on blasting relief for homeowners, affordable housing and homeowners insurance, enhanced public safety and women production freedom.

Fabricio couldn't be reached for comments. He first won his seat in 2020 and was reelected in 2022. According to his campaign website, Fabricio's political platform includes creating economic opportunities, support programs for senior citizens and affordable healthcare.

House District 107

For House District 107, which

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

★ ★ ★

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Election Fever 2024 - Here's What You Should Know About This Month's Primary Elections

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

covers Miami Gardens and portions of North Miami and North Miami Beach, six candidates, mostly Haitian Americans, are seeking to replace State Representative Christopher Benjamin who decided to forgo another term to run for County Court judge.

The candidates are Wallace Aristide, a former high school principal who unsuccessfully ran for a Miami-Dade County Commission seat in 2022; attorneys Loreal Arscott and Fadlin Pierre; Christine Sanon-Jules Olivo, a teacher and small business owner; Monique Mayo-Barley, a business consultant, and Wancito Francius, a former state representative and North Miami City Council candidate.

All candidates are Democrats.

Here are the candidates on the Republican Primary Ballot across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.

REPUBLICAN RACES**U.S. Senator**

John S. Columbus
Keith Gross
Rick Scott (i)
U.S. House, District 21
Palm Beach County
Brian Mast (i)
Rick Wiles
U.S. House, District 22
Palm Beach County
Deborah Adeimy
Dan Franzese
Andrew Gutmann

U.S. House, District 23 Broward and Palm Beach counties

Gary Barve
Darlene Cerezo Swaffar
Joseph "Joe" Kaufman
Carla Spalding
Joe Thelusca
Robert S. Weinroth

U.S. House, District 24 Broward and Miami-Dade counties

Patricia "Patti" Gonzalez
Jesus Gabriel Navarro
U.S. House, District 25
Broward County
Chris Eddy
Bryan E. Leib

State House, District 94 Palm Beach County

Christian F. Acosta
Anthony Aguirre
Gabrielle M. Fox
Meg Weinberger

Broward County State Executive Committee

Mery Lopez-Palma
Michele Merrell
Palm Beach County State Attorney
Forrest Freedman
Sam Stern

Palm Beach County Sheriff

Lauro E. Diaz
Michael Gauger

Palm Beach County Republican Executive Committee

Tami Donnally
Ron Howard
Jason Kulp
Joe LaFauci
Jenniffer "Jen" Lee
Jodi Schwartz

Precinct Committeeman

Broward County, vote for up to two
Laureano A. Chileuitt
Mark Jay Glicksman
Douglas Gum
Herb Vargas

Here are the candidates on the Democratic Primary Ballot across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.**U.S. Senator**

Stanley Campbell
Rod Joseph
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Brian Rush

U.S. House, District 25 Broward County

Jennifer "Jen" Perelman
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (i)

State House, District 89 - Palm Beach County

Destinie Baker Sutton
Debra Tendrich
State Senate, District 35 -
Broward County
Rodney Jacobs
Chad Klitzman
Barbara Sharief

Broward County Sheriff

Steven "Steve" Geller
David Howard
Al Pollock
Gregory Tony (incumbent)
Palm Beach County State Attorney

Alexcia Cox
Gregg S. Lerman
Craig Williams

Palm Beach County Sheriff

Ric L. Bradshaw (i)
Alex Freeman

Palm Beach County Commissioner, Dist. 7

Bobby Powell Jr.
Richard A. Ryles
Port of Palm Beach Group 2
Varisa Dass
Kelly Fleury
Jeffery B. Jackson

Broward County - Candidates in the open primary

In these races, there were no qualified candidates from another political party. Therefore, all voters may participate. The winner is elected and the race will not appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

State House, District 98

Broward County
Keith Abel (D)
Shelton A. Pooler (D)
Emily Rodrigues (D)
Mitch Rosenwald (D)

State House, District 99

Broward County
Joshauwa Brown (D)
Daryl Nevroy Campbell (D) (incumbent)

Broward County Clerk of Courts

Annette R. Daniels (D)
Brenda D. Forman (D) (incumbent)
Charles F. Hall (D)

Broward County Tax Collector

Abbey Ajayi (D)
Dwight Forrest (D)
Perry E. Thurston Jr. (D)

Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Russell Roberto Bathulia (D)
Joe Scott (D) (i)

Palm Beach County Public Defender

Daniel Eisinger (D)
Adam Frankel (D)

BROWARD COUNTY JUDICIAL RACES

Judicial elections are on the August ballots. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most votes will be in a runoff election on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Broward Circuit Judge, Group 1

Christina Grace Arguelles
Carol-Lisa Phillips (i)

Broward Circuit Judge, Group 38

Stefanie C. Moon (i)
John "Johnny" Weekes

Broward County Judge, Group 6

Kathleen Mary "Katie" McHugh (i)
Scott R. Shapiro

Broward County Judge, Group 10

Alejandro "Alex" Arreaza
Woody Clermont
Samuel Ford Stark

Broward County judge, Group 16

Kathleen "Kathie" Elaine Angione
Joseph "Joe" Zager

Broward County Judge, Group 25

Corey Brian Friedman
Tamar Hamilton

Broward County Judge, Group 32

Emilio "Emi" Benitez
Lauren Nichole Pepper

BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

School board elections are on the August ballots. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most votes will be in a run-off election will be on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Broward School Board, Dist. 1

Maura McCarthy Bulman
Chris Canter
Daniel Penha Foganholi Sr.

Broward School Board, Dist. 2

Torey Alston
Rebecca Thompson

Broward School Board, Dist. 3

Sarah Leonardi (incumbent)
Jason Lee Loring

Broward School Board, Dist. 5

Windsor D. Ferguson Jr.
Jeff Holness (incumbent)

Broward School Board, At-Large Seat 9

Debra "Debbi" Hixon (incumbent)

Tom Vasquez

PALM BEACH COUNTY JUDICIAL RACE

Judicial elections are on the August ballots. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most votes will be in a runoff election on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Palm Beach County Judge, Group 2

Lourdes Casanova
Douglas I. Leifert
Jean Marie Middleton

PALM BEACH COUNTY PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

School board elections are on the August ballots. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most votes will be in a runoff election on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Palm Beach County School Board, Dist. 1

Matthew Jay Lane
Page Lewis
Francesca Wernisch

Palm Beach County School Board, Dist. 5

Gloria Branch
Mindy Koch
Mike Letsky
Suzanne Page
Charman Postel

PALM BEACH COUNTY QUESTION

A county question will appear on the August ballots. The Economic Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program provides Palm Beach County with an additional economic development incentive tool to assist new and expanding businesses to make a positive economic impact on Palm Beach County's economy with the expectation that these businesses will create new, full-time jobs in Palm Beach County. Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art. VII of the State Constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in Palm Beach County?



Can We Talk?

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

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Peter A. Webley
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Project 2025: The Blueprint for America's Democratic Demise

BY CONGRESSWOMAN
FREDERICA S. WILSON

Trump is "America's Hitler."

Those aren't my words. They're the words of Donald Trump's running mate, Sen. J.D. Vance. That's what he and many others used to say about Trump before they succumbed to his influence. Now, they're proclaiming their loyalty by bowing down and kissing the ring of an insurrection inciter, a racist, a sex predator, a twice-impeached, four-time indicted, now convicted felon, and former disgrace of a President.

Recently, the Republicans held their national convention. Despite the delusional and deranged policies Trump has been shoving down our throats, he was met with thunderous applause.

Let me paint a picture of a second Trump term, according to MAGA Republicans and

Trump's closest cronies.

Journalist and historian Anne Applebaum aptly noted, "Often, for autocrats, the second time in power is worst." That's a chillingly accurate description of what we'd face with Trump, especially with the tyrannical policies in Project 2025. If you haven't heard, Project 2025 is a 920-page blueprint for a second Trump term, straight out of a dystopian novel. It's packed with the horrifying policies MAGA Republicans dream of imposing.

It's the MAGA Republicans' plan to take control of this country and our lives.

It demolishes checks and balances, tramples personal liberties, and outlines a Trump power grab ripped from a dictator's playbook.

Trump wants to fire up to 1 million people in the federal government and replace them with a bunch of extreme MAGA

Republicans who would do Trump's bidding instead of the American people and the Constitution.

And let's talk about your wallet because you can forget about that with Project 2025. MAGA Republicans want to increase taxes on the middle class, gut social security for young Americans, slash Medicare, let employers stop paying overtime, and more.

They also aim to obliterate the Department of Education and eliminate the Head Start program. As a former Head Start educator and school principal, I find this vile and inexcusable.

Project 2025 also wants students in public high schools to take a military entrance exam in an effort to draft them into the military. However, it leaves private school kids untouched.

The cherry on top? They're hell-bent on banning abortion and restricting access to birth

control and Plan B. As someone who knew life before Roe v. Wade and almost died from a stillbirth, we simply cannot go back.

Now, Trump knows this plan is insane and unpopular, and has recently tried to distance himself from Project 2025, claiming he knows nothing about it.

But Project 2025 is crawling with former Trump officials and cabinet members.

All MAGA Republicans are trying to do now is lie about Project 2025 so they can win the election and begin to implement this draconian plan—just like authoritarians in other countries did when trying to grab onto power. But we cannot ignore their true vile intentions.

So, what's next?

Trump used his first term to destroy the guardrails of democracy, stack the courts with loyalists, and make the truth seem like "fake news."

So, while our democracy survived a first Trump term, it won't survive a second one.

Don't take my word for it. Trump said he will become "a dictator on day one." This isn't just a scare tactic by Democrats; it's simply what Trump has already told us will happen if he wins. So, believe him when he says he'll be a dictator.

There is simply too much at stake to focus on anything other than the choice we have in this election: democracy or dictatorship. I'm choosing democracy every day.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson is the Democratic representative of Florida district 24.



The Democrats Are Ready To Win With Front-Runner Kamala Harris



Democrat nominee for President, Kamala Harris. (Getty images)

By Roger Caldwell

The Democrats have changed the candidate for the nomination of the president in 2024, and it is a woman of color who will take over the campaign. "People in your life will tell you, though; it's not your time. It's not your turn. Nobody like you has done it before. Don't you ever listen to that, I like to say, I eat no for breakfast," says the new Democrat nominee for President, Kamala Harris.

Something has drastically changed in the campaign for president in one week, and America will never be the same. There has been a divine intervention, and Black women will lead the way.

President Biden in a letter announcing his withdrawal, offered his thanks to Ms. Harris for being an extraordinary partner. And in a separate letter he endorsed her to be the next president of America.

For the past four years, Vice-President Harris has been taught and educated to lead the country under the tutelage of President Biden. President Biden shared 52 years of experience with Vice-President Harris, and she is prepared. It will help make Ms.

Harris one of the most insightful visionaries to hold the office of president.

The news of Ms. Harris's endorsement and nomination has electrified the Democratic Party, and the old Obama's support team will come together with more women organizations. In two days, Black women have raised 1.1 million dollars, and the Black men have also raised over a million dollars.

With the excitement of a younger Black/colored women presidential candidate, the Democrat Party has come alive, and everyone young and old, is ready to go to work. There will be thousands of women and men ready to go to work, and this has never been done before. In one week the Democratic Party has come together, and we are unified.

"This is a historic opportunity that has the potential for exciting and mobilizing young voters in a way we haven't seen in a long time," said Shaunna Thomas, co-founder and executive director of Ultra Violet, which focuses on educating voters about digital disinformation. "It would be hard to overstate how meaningful it is in a year when the Republicans are coming for women."

With all hands on deck, the polls in one week have begun to narrow in the direction of Harris. With Biden polls were losing in some states by five points, but these same states are now even and some losing by 1 point.

Now former President Trump is the old man running for president, and every time the crook tells lies, he will be "prosecuted" and exposed. There are now two different visions for America - one focused on the future, and the other focused on the past. Harris is not going back,

and her campaign is about going forward.

In one week, Vice-President Harris has racked up endorsements from all of the high profile Democrats and they keep coming. This week Harris has smashed fundraising records by White women for Harris by having 200,000 on line and raising over 8 million dollars. At the end of the week, Harris has raised over 200 million dollars.

As the Democrats get ready for their convention, they are mobilized, organized, and unified.

Votes make history, and they win elections. Harris will lead the Democrats to victory, and earn every vote by smashing records, and building advocates for justice and freedom.

"No child has to grow up in poverty, and every one can have affordable health care. All women can have control of their bodies, and live and be safe. We are not going back," says Kamala Harris, the unofficial nominee of Democratic Party for the President of the United States in 2024.



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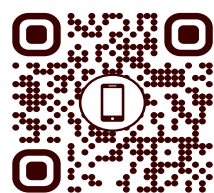
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The Candidates In Their Own Words

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

Three and a half years ago, I took office with a promise to build a government that listens, responds, and innovates for the future, and we got right to work. I am so proud of what we've accomplished together. Under my leadership, Miami-Dade has defied national crime trends, taking 3,000 illegal guns off our streets and achieving one of the lowest rates of gun violence



Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava is running for re-election.

for any major metropolitan area. With a focus on creating economic opportunity for all and tackling the affordability crisis, we cut property taxes to their lowest rate in 40 years, invested in affordable housing and mass transit, protected our environment, supported small business owners, and so much more. This August, I'm running for re-election to continue delivering results for you and your families. It's been the honour of a lifetime to serve as your Mayor, and I hope I can count on your support.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

My name is Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, I'm a proud mother and Floridian, and I'm running for U.S. Senate to bring back the opportunities that allowed me to get to where I am today. My story is one I have seen reflected all over Florida - where it's possible for me to have gone from working a minimum wage job to becoming the first South American immigrant to be



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, candidate for U.S. Senate.

elected to Congress. I'm running to address the affordability crisis, protect our fundamental freedoms, and protect Social Security and Medicare. Floridians deserve better than an extremist like Rick Scott who embraces Florida's abortion ban and wrote the plan to steal seniors' benefits. We deserve a Senator who sees how hard Floridians work every day and who is ready to bring that fight

to the Senate. I'm ready to fight every day to make that a reality and build a brighter future for Floridians.

Chief of Public Safety James Reyes

As Chief of Public Safety for Miami-Dade County, I'm proud to work every single day to keep residents and families safe all across our community. Together, we've defied national trends in crime with one of the lowest rates of gun violence for any major metro area in the country. Now, as our county prepares to elect our first Sheriff in 60 years, I'm ready to guide Miami-Dade through this crucial transition to ensure public safety is never compromised. As Sheriff, I will work to build and maintain community trust, fight public corruption, and - most importantly - keep our residents safe above all else. With more than 25 years working in law enforcement, I'm the only candidate in this race with executive leadership experience



Chief of Public Safety James Reyes is running for re-election.

in a Sheriff's office - and that matters. Let's work together to keep our community safe, because there is nothing more important.

J.C. Planas

There is nothing more important than defending our democracy with free and fair elections. That's been my life's work and it's why I am running to be Miami-Dade's Supervisor of Elections. Born and raised



J.C. Planas is running for Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections.

in Miami, I have proudly served our community as a State Representative, elections attorney, and election law professor. As Supervisor of Elections, I will continue our county's record of administering efficient, transparent, and fair elections - ensuring every eligible voter's voice is heard through free and fair democratic elections. That's what I've done throughout my career, and what I commit to doing as our Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections. I hope you'll stand with me - make your voice heard and vote!

John Barrow

My name is John Barrow and I am a Miami native and son of immigrants from Barbados. I grew up in Carol City, a close knit neighbourhood, which unfortunately had to deal with crime and violence. After college, I returned home and joined the Miami-Dade Police Department.

I have risen through every civil service rank, and was appointed Major in 2020,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 27)



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Mayor Daniella Levine Cava Endorsed For Re-Election By Kendall Federation PAC

The Kendall Federation Political Action Committee (KFHA PAC), the political branch of the Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations, has officially endorsed Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava for her re-election campaign. This significant endorsement from the influential homeowners' association underscores Mayor Levine Cava's commitment to the Kendall community and her effective leadership.

"I am thrilled to be endorsed by the Kendall Federation Political Action Committee," said Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. "It's an honor to have earned the support of homeowners and residents who



Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava.

trust in my proven leadership and commitment to serving residents as we work together to ensure that our community thrives for generations to come."

Mayor Levine Cava's administration has focused on solving critical issues, creating economic opportunities for all, and addressing the affordability crisis. Her efforts have resulted in cutting property tax rates for two consecutive years, bringing them to their lowest in forty years, and investing in affordable housing solutions with 32,000 new units in development. Additionally, she has allocated funds to fortify

homes against severe weather, provided financial relief for mortgages, utilities, and condo special assessments, and secured a new FEMA discount by addressing flood risks, leading to significantly reduced flood insurance premiums for residents in unincorporated Miami-Dade. Elected as Miami-Dade's first female mayor in November 2020, after becoming the first-ever countywide candidate to qualify by petition, Daniella

Levine Cava has a distinguished career as a social worker, attorney, and advocate for South Florida families. Her leadership has spurred remarkable economic recovery and growth, attracting major investments, business relocations, and the creation of new economy jobs, positioning Miami-Dade as one of the most recovered economies in the nation.



The Candidates In Their Own Words

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)
a testament to my ability to overcome all obstacles and



John Barrow, candidate for Miami-Dade County Sheriff.

get the job done. After nearly 18 years of service in the Department, I know every corner of this County.

I am the most experienced candidate in this race for Miami-Dade County Sheriff on August 20, 2024, with the most police law enforcement command experience of any of my primary opponents and years of executive community policing service in every community in this County. This background makes me the best to lead the Sheriff's Office on Day 1, and to put in place policies that will make Miami-Dade safer and stronger as a community.

Susan Khoury

As a former federal agent, I am the only female democratic



Susan Khoury, candidate for Miami-Dade County Sheriff.

candidate for Miami-Dade County Sheriff on August 20, 2024.

Experienced in Homeland Security and Emergency Management, I have a master's degree in criminal justice and communication and worked as a special agent with the federal government.

During my time as a federal agent, I worked on task forces around the United States, including the team working the aftermath of 1992's devastating Hurricane Andrew in Miami, FL.

I have been at the forefront of Federal Regulation and Mental Health Reform as well as the reinstatement of the Miami-Dade County Police Oversight Board. Throughout my career, my primary goal has been to utilize the 21st Century Policing Best Practices, which make up the six pillars forming the basis of her platform for Miami-Dade County Sheriff.

Learn more about me at <https://khouryforsheriff.com/>



Dr. Marie Flore Lindor Latortue Candidate Community Council Area 14- 144

Dr. Marie Flore Lindor Latortue is running for community council 14 because in 2020 she ran for school board in District 7. The pandemic did not stop her from knocking on doors, listen to the neighbors. She is a present and a servant leader. Her strong presence with others and for them, made her the most likeable candidate with all communities. She is deeply committed to take the neighbors' concerns to the council while fostering a strong, inclusive community. With her background in healthcare and education, she understands the importance of accessible resources and aims

to address the gaps in community services. Dr. Flore like she prefers to be called, envisions a council that is responsive to the needs of all residents, prioritizing initiatives that support education, health, and economic opportunities.

Her passion for public service stems from her extensive



Dr. Marie Flore Lindor Latortue

experience working with diverse populations, where she has witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by many families. Dr. Latortue is dedicated to advocating for policies that ensure equity and sustainability, believing that a thriving community is built on the principles of cooperation and mutual support. By running for the community council, she hopes to bring her expertise and compassion to the forefront, making a positive impact on the community's future. Vote early – vote 382





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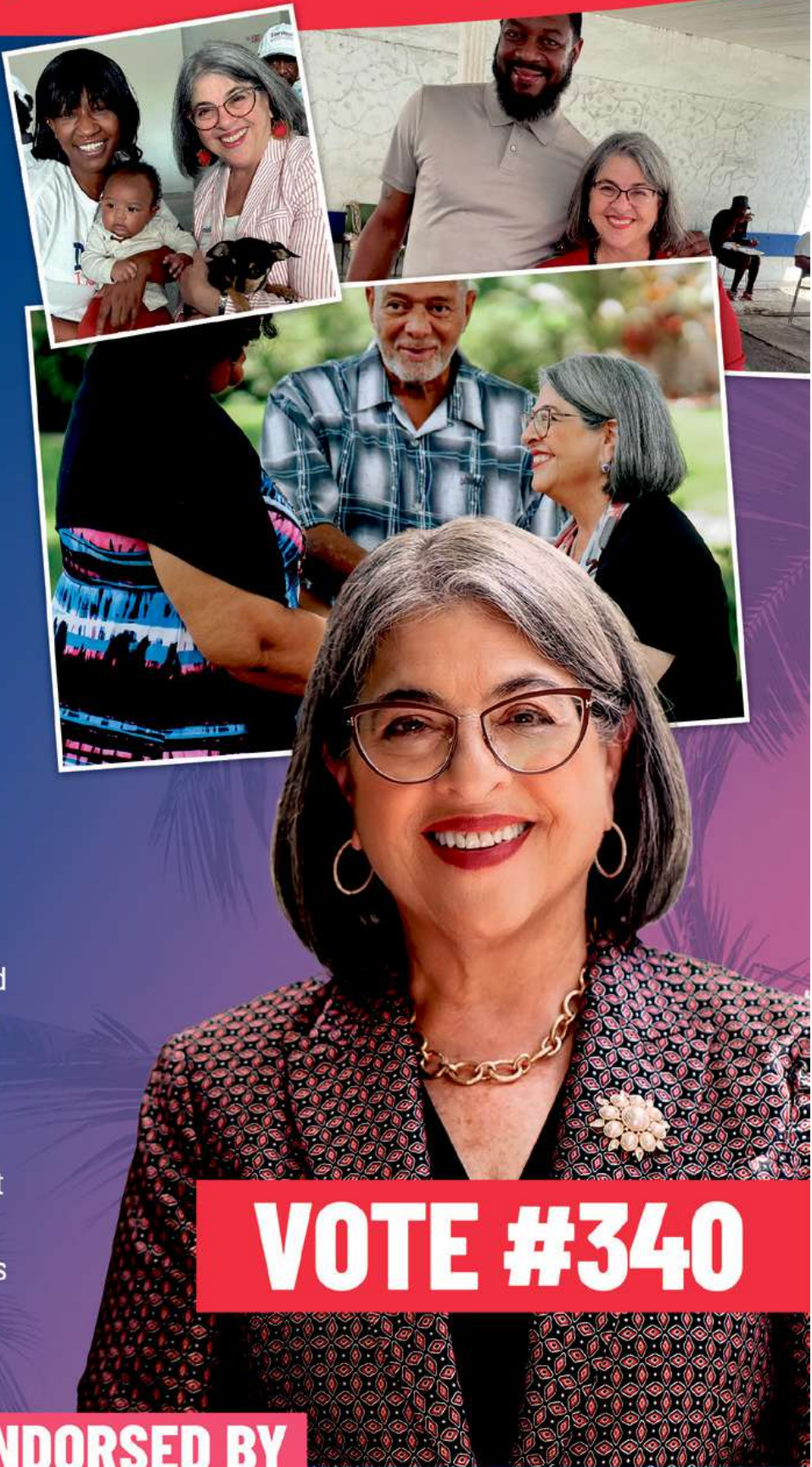
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Daniella
Levine Cava
Our MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR

Leading with compassion.
Delivering with action.

- Launched the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, saving 26,000 families from losing their homes and created the Office of Housing Advocacy focused on addressing the housing crisis, including eviction prevention
- Created the Future Ready Miami-Dade Scholarship to help qualifying residents attend Miami Dade College at zero cost
- Established Operation Community Shield to take 3,000 guns off our streets and employed 1,500 youth in our crime prevention programs



VOTE #340

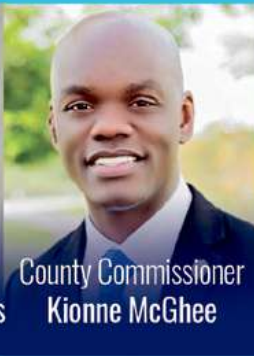
PROUDLY ENDORSED BY



County Commissioner
Marleine Bastien



County Commissioner
Danielle Cohen Higgins



County Commissioner
Kionne McGhee



North Miami Mayor
Alix Desulme



Florida City Vice Mayor
Sharon Butler



Election Day is Tuesday, August 20th
Vote Early August 5th-18th

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR, NON-PARTISAN

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