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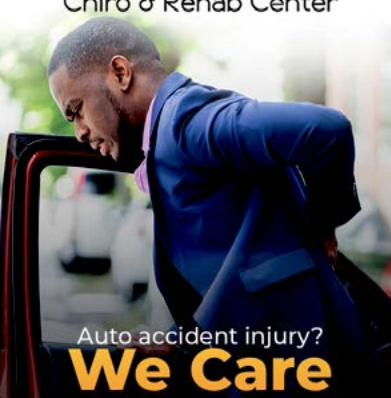
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Photo: Elle Magazine Image

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# Regional Caribbean News Round Up

Here's a synopsis of all the major Caribbean news from the region you can use:

## REGIONAL

Foreign Direct Investment in the Caribbean fell by 18 percent last year, according to latest data from UNCTAD, though that drop was far less than 2019.

The report, released Sunday, said the FDI inflows into the Caribbean last year was just USD 3.2 billion, as the region was hit by COVID-19, which drastically impacted investment in the tourism sector.

However, there was somewhat good news for the Dominican Republic, which even though it has seen the highest rate of COVID-19 infections and deaths in the Caribbean, saw its FDI inflows drop by only 9 percent. The country was helped by investments in the manufacturing sector and new projects in medical devices.

The news comes as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), said Friday that the region's foreign trade in 2020 had its worst performance since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 because of the economic crisis prompted by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed by governments to stop its spread.

In its annual report, unveiled on Friday, ECLAC estimated that the value of regional exports dropped -16 percent in 2020.

However, FDI flows to the Caribbean in 2019, had reported a worst decline. In the Caribbean, excluding offshore financial centers, flows declined by 32 percent in 2019. That contraction was owed to lower FDI – \$2.5 billion – in the Dominican Republic, the largest recipient in the sub-region, despite strong economic growth there in 2018.

Flows to Haiti and Jamaica also had fallen in 2019, to \$105 million and \$775 million, respectively.

## BARBADOS

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has acknowledged that the economy could lose as much as US\$12.5 million as a result of the two-week lockdown that will go into effect next month.

However, during a televised address in which she said the

country would be on a two-week lockdown next month in an effort to reduce the risk of further COVID-19 spread, Mottley said saving the lives of Barbadians was a priority.

Lamenting the deaths of three elderly people in a one-week period, which marked the first COVID-deaths since the seven recorded up to April 2020, the Prime Minister said the two-week period of "national pause" was necessary.

## GUYANA

The news comes as Hess Corp. has reported an E&P capital and exploratory budget of \$780 million for 2021 for offshore Guyana developments in the oil sector.

And as the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved US\$13.5 million to support the ongoing Guyana Secondary Education Improvement Project. The project, which aims to improve teaching in mathematics and increase enrollment in secondary schools, will provide equipment and training to support innovative technology-assisted education delivery methods.

## SURINAME

Suriname's President Chandrikapersad Santokhi has tested positive for COVID-19. Santokhi, however, said he was feeling strong and had no symptoms of the virus, but would remain at home on the advice of health authorities. He is in isolation at his private residence where he said he will be working for the next few days.

So far, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Business & International Cooperation, Spatial Zoning and Environment and Finance and Planning have tested negative.

So far almost 8,550 cases have been recorded in Suriname since the start of the pandemic and the death toll has reached 156.

## ST. LUCIA

The St. Lucia Ministry of Health and Wellness has reported that it had received confirmation from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) of five cases of the United Kingdom strain of COVID-19 on the island.

It said two cases of the



Suriname's President Chandrikapersad Santokhi has tested positive for COVID-19.

SARS-Co-V-2 British variant diagnosed in the country were British nationals who were diagnosed on December 17 and December 23, 2020. The other three cases are St. Lucian nationals who were also diagnosed that month.

All five cases have since made a full recovery, the Ministry said.

On December 14, 2020, the UK Public Health Agency reported a COVID-19 variant that had been in circulation from September 20, 2020, within the UK.

## BAHAMAS

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency, agents from its Air and Marine Operations (AMO) and US federal partners seized about US\$500,000 in undeclared currency after stopping a vessel, heading to the Bahamas, for an outbound inspection near Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

CBP said the Fort Lauderdale Marine Unit, Miami Marine Unit and Miami Air and Marine Branch Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft crew stopped the vessel and coordinated with US Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) during the vessel inspection.

A K-9 alerted to the center console during a search of the vessel, CBP said, where agents discovered the currency in the lining of a cooler and laundry detergent boxes.

In 2020, CBP said AMO enforcement actions resulted in the seizure or disruption of 194,220 pounds of cocaine, 278,492 pounds of marijuana, 15,985 pounds of

methamphetamine, 952 weapons and US\$51.5 million, 1,066 arrests, 47,872 apprehensions of illegal migrants.

## JAMAICA

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has committed to providing greater protection for the homeless community after several pre-dawn attacks left four homeless people dead and two others battling for their lives.

The police are investigating what they said appeared to be coordinated attacks on the vulnerable men in downtown Kingston, in the early hours of

Monday.

All the victims were chopped. One was found dead on the compound of the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court (Civil and Tax Divisions), two were killed on Hanover Street in central Kingston, and the body of a fourth was discovered on the Mother White Bridge on Spanish Town Road in west Kingston. Two others were severely wounded.

Prime Minister Holness, horrified by the murders, said the attacks represented a new kind of savagery, especially given what appeared to be the serial nature of the attacks.

The Prime Minister said the matter was discussed at length during Monday's Cabinet meeting, particularly with Minister with responsibility for Local Government Desmond McKenzie, as well as Mayor Delroy Williams. He said the two ministers are exploring further ways of providing service and protection, both immediate and long-term, for the homeless population.

Rewritten and Compiled From CMC, NewsAmericasNow.com



# St. Lucia Independence

St. Lucia turns 42 on Feb. 22, 2021 but this year independence in the pandemic will also be one without one of the island's most revered cultural icons and foremost composers.

Charles Cadet, who dedicated much of his life to preserving St. Lucia's culture through music, died on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, after a prolonged illness. He was 96.

One of his most popular songs included 'Poinsettia Blossoms,' which is described as a cult classic. Cadet also collaborated with Roderick Walcott on the musical, 'The Banjo Man,' and was officially a National Cultural Icon. He also received the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his work and the St. Lucia Cross. Cadet also was the first recipient of the M&C Fine Arts Lifetime Achievement Award.



Charles Cadet (YouTube screengrab)

St. Lucia's Minister in the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Broadcasting, Culture and Creative Industries with responsibility for Culture and Creative Industries, Fortuna Belrose, described him as a gem who gave of himself for his country and worked exceedingly hard.

Rewritten from CMC and St. Lucia Times.



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Peter A. Webley  
Publisher



# Remembering CICELY TYSON: The Daughter Of Caribbean Immigrants



Award-winning Caribbean American actress, Cicely Tyson. (Getty Image)

Cicely Tyson, the New York-born, daughter of Caribbean immigrants, who went on to become an Oscar-nominated actress, passed away Thursday, January 28, 2021 at the age of 96.

Her passing came just two days after she released her first memoir, "Just As I Am." Her last Tweet was about poet Amanda Gorman, who delivered the stellar prose at the inauguration on Jan. 20, 2021. "@TheAmandaGorman, your words remind us that we will rise, rebuild, reconcile and recover. Thank you for your words and light," she tweeted, signing it 'CT.'

Tyson was born in Harlem on December 19, 1924 to Caribbean immigrant parents Frederica Tyson, a domestic worker, and William Augustine Tyson, who worked as a carpenter, painter, and at any other jobs he could find.

Both her parents were born in Nevis in the West Indies. Her father arrived in New York City at age 21 and was processed at Ellis Island on August 4, 1919.

Tyson had a daughter when she was 17 years old and got married at age 18 to Kenneth Franklin. By 1956 she was divorced, saying her husband abandoned her after less than eighteen months of marriage.

Tyson began working as a secretary and was discovered by a photographer for Ebony magazine and became a popular print fashion model at just 5'3", before she became an actress.

Her first acting role came in 1951 on the NBC series, 'Frontiers of Faith.' Her first film was in 1956 in 'Carib Gold,' a maritime-themed B-movie, written and filmed almost entirely in Key West, Florida, with locally cast musicians and extras. It was headlined by Ethel Waters also featured Geoffrey Holder in his first film role.

In 1957, she began acting in Off-Broadway productions. She had small roles in feature films before she was cast as Portia in The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (1968).

In 1963, she became the first Black actress to star in a television drama when she starred

in the celebrated series East Side/West Side (1963–1964). She also had a role in the soap opera, 'The Guiding Light.'

In 1972, Tyson played the role of Rebecca Morgan in the critically acclaimed film, 'Sounder.' She was subsequently nominated for both the Academy Award and Golden Globe Award for Best Actress for

her work in Sounder, and also won the NSFC Best Actress and NBR Best Actress Awards. Her career exploded after with numerous films including in The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974) and as of last year, 'A Fall from Grace.' Last year, she also had a recurring role in the TV series, 'Cherish The Day.'

Tyson is the first-Black

actress to win an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Television Movie for her performance in that movie. In 1977, Tyson was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame; in 1980, she received the Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement.

In 1981, she remarried, this time to long time love, Miles

Davis in a ceremony conducted by Atlanta mayor Andrew Young at the home of actor Bill Cosby. Cosby was the best man. However, she filed for divorce in 1988 and Davis died in 1991.

The same year she filed for divorce Tyson received a Candace Award for Distinguished Service

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



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# NEWS



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## Caribbean Leaders Welcome The Joe Biden/Kamala Harris Administration



President Joe Biden responds to a reporter's question after signing executive orders in the State Dining Room of the White House recently in Washington. The US first Black Caribbean American Vice President Kamala Harris is at left, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, at right, look on. (AP PHOTO)

Caribbean leaders have joined millions globally in welcoming the official beginning of the Joe Biden/ Kamala Harris administration.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, said he is ready to quote "work for the prosperity of our nations" while Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, welcomed the changing of the guard in American politics.

Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit said he is looking forward to working with the US in building a stronger and resilient world for all, while Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, said his administration stands together with the new US president and vice president in defence of unity, democracy and peace.

"Your call for unity and democracy are critical components of good governance which we share completely with you. We pray that God continues

to bless the Government and people of the United States. We stand together with you in defense of unity, democracy and peace," President Ali posited in his congratulatory message on Facebook.

St. Kitts PM, Timothy Harris, in a Twitter post, said his government "looks forward to working with the (new US administration) on a fresh agenda upholding #democracy and creating unity and stability across the world."

Kamala Harris is the first Black and Caribbean American vice president of the United States. On Sunday night, Jan. 17, 2021, at the Global Caribbean inauguration celebration in her honor, she thanked Caribbean American voters for helping the ticket make history and win the election.

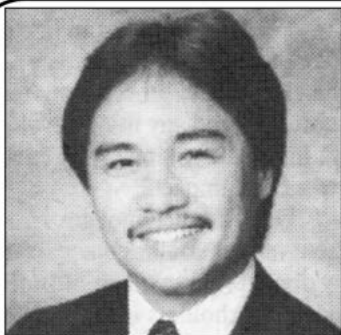
"Thank you for the efforts that so many of you have made throughout the course of the campaign to

get us to this moment. ... You did the work. You helped lay the groundwork for this historic occasion," VP-elect Harris said. "Now, because of you and so many others, our country is on a path to heal and rebuild."

She also recognized the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the United States, which she said are woven "throughout the fabric of our country."

"Those contributions are reflected in the lives of so many Americans with Caribbean roots, from Eric Holder and Colin Powell to Shirley Chisholm," said the VP-elect, the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants. "And I'm proud to be with you, as a vice-president elect with roots in the Caribbean."

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## Support Grows For Guyana After Venezuela Grabs Innocent Fishermen

Support is growing for Guyana after Venezuela escalated their border dispute with the CARICOM South American nation by arresting two Guyanese registered fishing vessels and their crew on Jan. 23, 2021.

A number of countries on the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council have condemned the recent acts of aggression by Venezuela against Guyana and echoed the call by the Guyana government for the immediate release of the Guyanese fishermen and their vessels.

Guyana's Ambassador Riyad Insanally told the OAS Council that the recent actions of Venezuela came on the heels of the Venezuelan President,

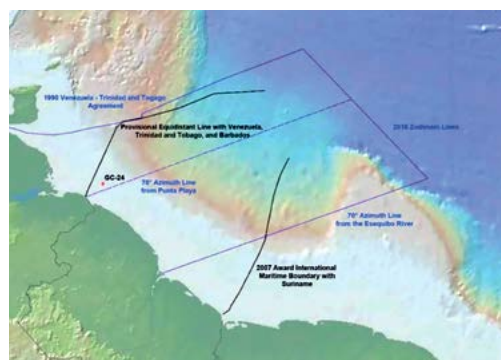
Nicholas Maduro's, recent decree reiterating its claims to Guyana's Essequibo region.

Trinidad's Representative Phillip Spencer reiterated CARICOM's statement on the controversy, adding his islands' support of Guyana while Antigua and Barbuda Representative to the OAS, Ambassador Ronald Saunders, called for an end to Venezuelan aggression against Guyana.

The US representative to the OAS, Bradley Freden condemned the seizure of the fishing vessels and called for the immediate release of the crew members. Expressing similar sentiments were the envoys of Brazil, Belize and Canada. The OAS General Secretariat

condemned "the illegal detention" also reiterated its support for the rules and processes set by international law regarding ongoing territorial conflicts.

"The resolution of the territorial dispute between Venezuela and Guyana is a matter that lies under international jurisdiction, and cannot be settled by unilateral actions," a statement added. "Any attempt to derail this international legal process, such as the decree issued by the (Nicholas) Maduro regime, is contrary to



Map showing the area of the interception by the Venezuelan Coast guard in Guyana's EEZ zone. (Stabroek News image)

international law and standards, and has no legal bearing or significance."

But Venezuela's representative Gustavo Tarre Briceno sought to defend his government when

given a chance to speak to the OAS Permanent Council. He said Venezuela has a right to protect its 'territory.' According to him, other means of conflict resolution should be resorted to that the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The vessels – the Lady Nayera and the Sea Wolf were operating off the coast of Waini Point in Guyana's EEZ when they were intercepted by the Venezuelan naval vessel, Commandante Hugo Chavez GC 24 on Jan. 23, 2021. Guyana's foreign ministry has said it is the Venezuelan vessel that was illegally sailing within Guyana's EEZ and contiguous zone when it intercepted and boarded the vessels.



## Remembering CICELY TYSON: The Daughter Of Caribbean Immigrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. In 1997, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In addition to her Screen

Medal for her contribution to the entertainment industry, her modeling career, and her support of civil rights.

Tyson was also a recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center

Academy Award. On November 18, 2018, Tyson became the first Black woman to receive an honorary Oscar. In 2018, Tyson was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame and she was chosen to be inducted into the Television Academy's Hall of Fame in 2020.

She is pictured on a \$3.25 postage stamp issued by her parents' native island of Nevis on January 1, 2014.

Premier of Nevis, Mark Brantley in a statement, reminisced that he was privileged to represent Tyson as a lawyer and later to meet her backstage on Broadway when she played the lead role in 'Trip to Bountiful' for which she won the Tony Award for Best Actress. Tyson had visited Nevis in 1983 and in 2004.

Tyson, a vegetarian, only portrayed strong images of women. As she herself has noted:

"I am the sum total of each one of the women I have played. That they were able to survive the times, and the way in which they did it, made me a stronger person and allowed me to truly believe that all things are possible."

Words to live by. RIP Cicely Tyson. We will miss you.

Rewritten from  
NewsAmericasNow.com



Cicely Tyson being greeted by then Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Sir Kennedy Simmonds during a visit to mark the county's Independence in 1983. (Photo: Sir Kennedy Simmonds/LoopJamaica)

Actor Guild Award, her Tony Award, her Emmy Awards, and her Black Reel Awards, Tyson has received several other honors. She received honorary degrees from Clark Atlanta University, Columbia University; Howard University; and Morehouse College, an all-male historically black college.

The Cicely Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts, a magnet school in East Orange, New Jersey, was named after her in 2009. Tyson was awarded the NAACP's 2010 Spingarn

Honors in 2015. She was awarded the United States' highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Barack Obama in November 2016. In 2017, Tyson was honored by NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio and First Lady Chirlane McCray during the West Indian American Day Carnival Association reception at Gracie Mansion on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017.

In September 2018, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that Tyson would receive an honorary



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## NEWS



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## Saint Martin National Saved From Deportation

A Saint Martin-born man has been spared deportation because of the intervention of a freshman congressman.

US Congressman Mondaire Jones intervened and helped save Paul Pierrilus from being deported to Haiti, his parents' homeland that he has never lived in.

Pierrilus is a financial consultant who emigrated to the US at the age of 5 with his Haitian-born parents. He was born in the French territory of St. Martin but is not a citizen there as the French Caribbean island does not have birthright citizenship.

He also has no citizen status in Haiti even though the Donald Trump administration was ready to deport him there before Congressman Mondaire and his team stepped in and were able to remove him from the plane just minutes before take-off. That came after the congressman's office found the Department of Homeland Security had not



Paul Pierrilus was saved from deportation.

approved travel documents.

"We have an immigration system where attorneys, advocacy organizations, and members of Congress must work on a case-by-case basis to work miracles in order to obtain justice for clients and

constituents," Jones was quoted by the Washington Post as saying. "That is no way to run an immigration system."

Pierrilus, 40, a Spring Valley, NY native, had garnered the attention of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement due to drug offenses. ICE also attempted to deport his brother, Daniel Pierrilus, in 2006. According to the family, Haitian officials sent him back when he arrived at Port au-Prince.

President Joe Biden has committed to delaying deportations for at least the first 100 days of his term.

Jones, 33, is a congressman from New York's 17th District. His resolution of the complex situation is just one example of the impact he's already had. His election to Congress in November made history as he's one of the first two openly gay, Black members of Congress elected last year.

*Rewritten from the Washington Post*



## Grenada Makes History Ahead Of Independence Anniversary

Grenadians will celebrate their 47th anniversary of independence on Feb. 7, 2021 but the island is already making history on another front.

The island began the New Year with its first female attorney general. Solicitor General, Dia C. Forrester-Gellineau, was on Dec. 30, 2020 appointed the new attorney general.

She replaced Darshan Ramdhani, who served in the post from January 2019 to Dec. 30, 2020. Forrester-Gellineau is the first woman to be appointed to the post since the first attorney general was appointed in 1973 when Grenada was a British Colony.

Ramdhani stepped down to serve in the British Virgin Islands, after which he will be returning to private practice. The new attorney general has more than 11 years of experience working not only in Grenada since passing the bar in 2008, but also in St. Kitts and Anguilla.



Her areas of practice include banking and finance law, litigation, commercial and civil litigation, taxation, insolvency and intellectual property law.

*Rewritten from The Caribbean Life*



## Haitian Immigrant Says He Forgives Cop Who Assaulted Him And Wants Early Release

A cop who beat and sodomized Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick in 1997, now wants an early release from jail.

Justin Volpe, who has been jailed now for over 21 years for his crime, says he has tested positive for COVID-19 and wants an early release.

Interestingly, Louima, the former New Yorker who now lives in Miami, is not opposed to the request. He told the New York Daily News that has forgiven Volpe but will never forget the attack.

"It's so many years after the crime. Twenty-one years is not 21 days. I think at least he's spent enough time thinking about his actions," Louima added.

But the 54-year-old insists it's now up to the justice system to decide whether or not to release Volpe.

"I tested positive for COVID-19 and had several symptoms. No medical treatment of any kind was provided or offered," Volpe wrote in a release filing on his own behalf. "Please let me have the chance to meet any needs with private insurance and at home with my family's love."

Volpe sodomized Louima with a jagged broom handle in August 1997 after claiming that Louima had punched him during a fight at East Flatbush, Brooklyn's popular Club Rendez-Vous.



Convicted cop Justin Volpe, l, in a file image and Haitian immigrant Abner Louima (r.)

Louima was arrested amid the fight that broke out, and reports said Volpe assaulted him while in the police car after the arrest. Volpe assaulted him again later that night at the police station. He then went ahead and sodomized a handcuffed Louima with the wood handle from either a broomstick or plunger, trial testimony and witnesses said. Authorities never found the instrument.

Louima, who claimed he was repeatedly called "n—r" during the attack and was left bleeding on the floor of a cell, spent two months in a hospital after surgery for his injuries. Reports said he suffered a ruptured colon and bladder, and his teeth were destroyed in the attack. When news of the attack broke, mass protests were held in the U.S. Four cops were tried, and all convicted. Volpe got the harshest sentence - 30-years in federal jail.

*Rewritten from the New York Daily News*



## Successful Women in Business



In March Caribbean Today will spotlight Successful Women In Business. Join Caribbean Today as we showcase these hard working women who have left their mark on the business community in South Florida. If you would like to nominate someone please send your nominees to [peter.webley@caribbeantoday.com](mailto:peter.webley@caribbeantoday.com) or [editor@caribbeantoday.com](mailto:editor@caribbeantoday.com)

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# Immigration Advocates Celebrate New US President's Immigration Agenda

BY NELSON A. KING

A plethora of Caribbean and other immigration advocates have welcomed new United States President Joe Biden's rescission of some of his predecessor's immigration policies by unveiling the US Citizenship Act, which provides a path to citizenship for 11 million immigrants, including Caribbean nationals, without legal status.

Four years after leading the fight against former US President Donald J. Trump's Muslim ban, immigrant rights advocates are celebrating Biden's unveiling of the Act and his executive action on a number of Trump orders.

Biden's Executive Order is part of a sweeping immigration agenda that includes a stop to the border wall construction and the fortification of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

DACA is an Obama administration program that protected about 700,000 young Caribbean and other immigrants, known as "Dreamers", from deportation. Trump had unsuccessfully tried to rescind DACA.

"Ending the Muslim ban marks the beginning of erasing Trump's heinous legacy on immigration," said Murad Awadeh, interim co-executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella group of Caribbean and other immigrant groups.

"After four years of family separation and racial profiling, we are grateful to bring to a close an era marked by so much pain and senseless cruelty in our Muslim communities," he added. "But we also know that much more is needed to ensure that all immigrants are protected and empowered."

"The US Citizenship Act is exactly the legislation we need now," continued Awadeh, stating that the Act recognizes "how foundational immigrants have always been to America's success and how critical they will be to our economic recovery from this pandemic and into the future."

Bitta Mostofi, Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, said that, four years ago, New Yorkers rushed to JFK (John F. Kennedy International Airport) to stand against the Trump administration's racist and xenophobic travel ban on Muslim and African countries.

"Today, we celebrate the repeal of these bans, as we continue to fight to build a truly just and humane immigration system," she said. "We look forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration to address the harms perpetuated by the Trump administration and to create a path to citizenship for the undocumented."

DACA recipient Emili Prado, legal coordinator of the immigration group, La Colmena, said that "throughout this entire pandemic, I have seen how the immigrant community has been left behind, including my parents who are still undocumented."

"As a DACA recipient, as an essential worker that has been on the frontlines providing services to the

immigrant community in Staten Island (New York), Joe Biden must keep his promises and provide a pathway to citizenship to our immigrant community who have lifted the city of New York," she said.

Linda Sarsour, co-founder and executive director of MPower, an immigration advocacy group in New York, said "it was the collective work of Muslims and our allies that led President Biden to commit to repealing the Muslim Ban."

But she said, "while we welcome this critical move, we know it's not enough. 'We don't want to just go back to four years ago,'" Sarsour said. "We want to ensure true transformative change for all immigrant communities through immediate actions like a deportation moratorium and freeing our people from ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) prisons."

Soon after he was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the new US president, Biden signed a White House Executive Order proclaiming an end to "discriminatory bans on entry to the United States."

"The United States was built on a foundation of religious freedom and tolerance, a principle enshrined in the United States Constitution," the proclamation reads. "Nevertheless, the previous administration enacted a number of executive orders and presidential proclamations that prevented certain individuals from entering the United States — first from primarily Muslim countries, and later, from largely African countries."

"Make no mistake, where there are threats to our nation, we will address them," the proclamation continues. "Where there are opportunities to strengthen information-sharing with partners, we will pursue them. And when visa applicants request entry to the United States, we will apply a rigorous, individualized vetting system. But we will not turn our backs on our values with discriminatory bans on entry into the United States."

Accordingly, Biden proclaimed the resumption of visa processing and clearing



President Biden has gotten to work swiftly revoking some Trump era immigration policies via executive action as he urges Congress to get to work on his immigration bill. (Getty Image)

the backlog of cases in waiver processing, ordering the US Secretary of State to direct all embassies and consulates, "consistent with applicable law and visa processing procedures, including any related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), to resume visa processing in a manner consistent with the revocation of the executive order and proclamations."

He also ordered the Secretary of State to provide him a report, within 45 days, the number of visa applicants who were being considered for a waiver of

restrictions, a proposal to ensure that individuals whose immigrant visa applications were denied on the basis of the suspension and restriction to have their applications reconsidered, and a plan to ensure that visa applicants are "not prejudiced as a result of a previous visa denial due to the suspension and restriction."

In addition, the new US president asked the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to furnish him, within 120 days of the date of the proclamation, a description of the current screening and vetting procedures for those seeking immigrant and nonimmigrant entry to the US; and a review of foreign government information-sharing practices vis-à-vis the US "in order to evaluate the efficacy of those practices, their contribution to processes for screening and vetting those individuals seeking entry to the United States as immigrants and nonimmigrants, and how the United States ensures the accuracy and reliability of the information provided by foreign governments."

Biden also ordered the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to

provide him, within 120 days, recommendations to improve screening and vetting activities, including diplomatic efforts to improve international information-sharing, use of foreign assistance funds, where appropriate, to support capacity building for information-sharing and identity-management practices, and ways to further integrate relevant executive department and agency data into the vetting system.

He ordered the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to reopen the DACA program to first-time applicants; restore protections to a two-year period, instead of one year; and make Advanced Parole available to DACA recipients again without restrictions.

After President Trump ordered his administration to change the policy in 2017 and break the promises made to these "Dreamers", a prolonged legal battle began in September 2017 that made its way through multiple courts before landing, in a combined case, at the US Supreme Court.

Edited From CMC



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# New Caribbean American Miami Dade College Provost Aims To Advance Equity

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Dr. Malou C. Harrison is a trailblazer! Taking on a similar trajectory as women who have made US history in medicine, education, and politics, this Caribbean American leader was recently named Provost of Miami Dade College (MDC).

Overseeing the institution's entire educational and developmental programs, Harrison is poised to transform MDC's 'voice.' Coming from a family of noted educators - her father was the late professor of linguistics at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Harrison's achievement is testament to her 35 years of experience in higher education.

In her previous roles at MDC as Dean of Students and President of the North and Padron campuses, her initiatives and innovative program development were key elements in the institution's growth and student successes. Now in her expanded role, the Provost must make decisions in an environment shrouded in a global pandemic. And she is taking it head on!

"There are so many priorities under my purview as Provost, the highest being the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff," Provost Harrison pointed out. "The pandemic has brought with it a host of challenges. With temperature checks, distancing, enhanced cleaning protocols, face coverings, purposefully reduced classroom capacity, and hand sanitizing stations

in classrooms and common areas, partnering to bring COVID testing and vaccinations to the Campus, MDC is keenly focused on doing its part to mitigate the spread on Campus and in the community."

## ADVANCING EQUITY

The educational leader is also on a mission to advance equity for educational excellence, student access and success at the institution. This, she said, includes finding ways to close the attainment and skills gap for all students, especially underserved populations. Included in these plans is a focus on expand mental health awareness and support for students.

Among the action agenda for student success and safety, the Provost has focused on virtual academic support and holistic student services by providing students with laptops and access to Wi-Fi; allowing campuses to serve as food distribution sites; contributing PPE and ventilators to a local hospital that was challenged by shortages in the supply chain; and providing emergency grants to students who were suffering the effects of unemployment, food insecurity, and homelessness, as well as supporting faculty in their



Provost Dr. Malou C. Harrison

commitment to uphold rigor, excellent pedagogy, and facilitate student learning.

Like most higher education institutions, MDC is offering a combination of educational formats including in-person courses, virtual classes, as well as a blend of all formats to give students as many options as possible. But, in these unprecedented times, some colleges/universities are the feeling financial pinch due to reduced revenue from COVID-related dropout.

Still Harrison is not too concerned as she has programs in place to address these issues. "As the founding then-Dean of MDC's Single Stop Program, I am proud of our capacity to help students address the 'life issues' that oftentimes

preclude continued enrollment in College," she said. "Through our community partnerships, we provide direct assistance with the completion of the State Unemployment Insurance Application, application for federal cash and food assistance."

Her continued focus on research and pedagogy highlights her love for what she does and her natural empathy. A prolific writer on educational issues, Dr. Harrison has authored several book chapters including "Toward Equity: The Immigrant Experience at Miami Dade College," for the book Working Toward an Equitable and Prosperous Future for All: How Community Colleges and Immigrants Are Changing America." She also sits on several boards to ensure the presence of student and faculty voices in education and funding opportunities.

## STRONG ROOTS

Undoubtedly, Harrison is well positioned to carry Miami Dade College forward, not only because of her decades of experience. She also calls on her Caribbean ancestry to guide her through tough times.

"I'm a proud Caribbean American woman of Trinidadian and Guyanese parentage, albeit being born and raised in my beloved country, Jamaica... I am a woman, who holds strong to tradition," she added. "During this pandemic, I have resorted not only to following the local health department protocols; but equally important I've done my

own due diligence to boost my immune system and mitigate susceptibility to the virus. My own tea concoctions of fresh cerasee, ginger, turmeric, and cayenne have been a staple for me since last March."

Indeed, this Caribbean woman has put down strong roots, been motivated by exceptional mentors, "answering her calling to provide educational opportunities," and serving as an example to her four children, and others.

## HER ADVICE TO THEM?

"Chart a vision for your personal and professional life. It may change a couple of times over time, however, don't let that or anyone railroad your resolve to working hard, persevering, and being your best self at every step of the way. Believe in yourself, have confidence in your abilities, model kindness and empathy. You'll get noticed, opportunities will present themselves to you...seize the moment with passion and purpose."



## Remembering Singing Sandra

The Caribbean region has lost one of its iconic female calypsonian - Sandra Des Vignes Millington, better known as "Singing Sandra."

Reports indicate the Trinidadian-born calypsonian died on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021. She was 64. Following the news of her death, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Senator Randall Mitchell, issued an official statement saying: "I am saddened to hear of the passing of calypsonian Sandra Des Vignes Millington, Singing Sandra."

Singing Sandra was born in 1957 in East Dry River and raised in Morvant. From an early age, she sang and acted as a child, and performed various small productions named 'Best Village' productions. In her mid-



Singing Sandra's music cross over other genres.

20s she was approached in 1984 by calypsonian Dr. Zhivago to perform two of his songs, and the following year was recruited

to Mighty Sparrow's Youth Brigade tent at the carnival. Her exceptional talent and persistence in hard work and in music resulted in her winning the National Calypso Queen in 1987. From that moment and after, her career accelerated at an exponential rate. She went on to win the Carifesta Monarch and Calypso Queen of the World titles in 1992 and she performed at the Reggae Sunsplash festival in 1992.

Later, she formed the group United Sisters along with Lady B, Tigress, and Marvellous Marva, yet she continued to perform as a solo artist and consequently won the 'Best Nation Building Song' award, along with a \$5,000 prize, at the 1997 carnival for the song "One Destiny One Heart."

Her achievements were numerous. She was the second woman to win Trinidad's Calypso Monarch title, winning in 1999 with the songs "Song for Healing" and "Voices from the Ghetto." In 2003 she won the title for a second time, with "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Ancient Rhythm," and becoming the first female calypsonian to win the title twice. This repeat win helped mark her legacy within Calypso music and also helped to again bring attention to the importance of female voices within a very male dominated competition and genre. Her music has also crossed over other genres such as soca. RIP Queen.

NewsAmericasNow.com



## Caribbean Countries Will Get COVID-19 Vaccines Soon

Seventeen Caribbean countries will begin receiving doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine by mid-month.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said the COVAX global vaccine sharing

scheme expects to deliver 35.3 million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine to 17 Caribbean and 15 Latin American nations between mid-February and the end of June.

The countries in the

Caribbean region set to receive the vaccine are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica,

Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

"The number of doses and delivery schedule are still subject (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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## A Light At The End Of The Tunnel For Immigrants?

It's over – the dark days of Donald Trump's White House xenophobia campaign and scapegoating of black and brown immigrants. Light has overtaken the darkness with the ascendancy of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, thanks to millions of immigrant voters.

And Biden is already showing his appreciation, praise the Lord. In Jamaican parlance, he is already proving he is not simply “a bag a mouth.”

President Biden has already used his executive power to turn back the hands of time on several immigration plans that the Xenophobe-In-Chief had made the rule.

And he is now pushing for the long overdue comprehensive immigration reform out of the gate, that could become his signature achievement.

Oh, what a day! The plan – if the Senate does not screw it – will finally help undocumented immigrants get on an eight-year pathway to citizenship and expand refugee admissions. Under the proposal, millions of undocumented immigrants who are in the United States as of Jan. 1, will be placed in a temporary status for five years and then granted a green card once they meet certain requirements, such as a background check and payment of taxes. They would be able to apply for citizenship three years after that.

DREAMERS, or those who have benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program instituted by President Barack Obama and then suspended by Trump, along with those immigrants here under the Temporary Protected Status Program (TPS), will be able to apply for a green card immediately if the measure passes Congress and becomes law.

The US' first Black, Caribbean American VP, Kamala Harris, the daughter of immigrants, also revealed that the administration plans to create “greater efficiencies” to streamline the naturalization process and add immigration judges to help eliminate backlogs on court hearings.

“We believe it is smarter and a more humane way of approaching immigration for immigrants,” Harris said in



Immigrants are celebrating President Biden's moves on immigration since he took office.

a Spanish TV interview, as a Cuban national could take over the running of the Department of Homeland Security, which will oversee the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS); the US Customs & Border Patrol (USCBP) and the US Immigration & Customs Enforcement, the dreaded (ICE).

The President has already signed several immigration measure by executive action including reinstating DACA; reinstating the Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians; revoking the Trump administration's plan to exclude non-citizens from the 2020 Census count; ending the so-called Muslim ban, which blocked travel to the US from several predominantly Muslim and African countries and halting most deportations for 100 days via executive action, beginning on Friday, January 22, 2020.

To those critics who feel it will be open border season, think again. The President says his enforcement plan will deploy technology to patrol the border. His plan will also address cause of illegal migration, especially from Central America, putting the focus on addressing the root causes of migration from that region – the economy.

After four years of tears and fear, light has come bursting in for immigrants. President Biden is off to a historic start. Not since 2013, has there been any attempt at a comprehensive immigration overhaul in the US.

With Democrats controlling all three houses, the Biden/Harris plan should finally become reality – if Democrats can convince at least 10 Republicans in the Senate to join them.

Immigrant voters can already see the fruits of their Nov. 3, 2020 vote, and for those who delivered the Senate on January 5, 2021, its inspirational.

Let us now pray that the lawmakers in the House and Senate deliver for President Biden and immigrants.

*The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow*



Oh yes, people do dress sexily. There are terms such as ‘sexy lingerie,’ ‘close fitting sheer sexy dress,’ ‘short sexy mini skirt,’ ‘sexy hip-hugging tight jeans,’ ‘low-cut revealing blouse’ and sexy shoes.

You see how sensual, sexual and sensuous a pair of women's shoes can be? No wonder people often say, “What a pair of shoes look sexy.”

A woman who has nice, neat feet, slender ankles, great calves and long shapely legs can have more than an alluring effect on men. That's why models always strut around in sexy high heel shoes. If not, they walk on tiptoe to give the same effect. But make sure that you have slim sexy feet and not thick trunk-like ugly hooves.

Every woman is advised to have in her closet, a sexy little black dress. But what makes a dress sexy? Well, it has to cling to the woman's body, showing off her contours, and slinky enough to move when she moves, leaving very little to the imagination.

Then there is the hip hugging, clinging white jeans that are so tight that they show every contour of the gluteus maximus to the max. Those jeans are so tight that a gynecologist need not have the woman take them off before he examines her. “Oh don't bother to take off your jeans ma'am, I can see just fine from here.”

When a woman leaves her house most scantily clad in a pair of shorts so tight you can see hills and valleys in between, what do you think her intentions are, if not to attract attention?

She knows that men will look at her with lust. She's aware that as she walks down the street or enters the room of that party with gay abandon, she's hot, and knows it.

But she's dressed sexily, and won't ever admit it, but simply say that she's just dressing to please herself. But we know that's not true. Her motto is: “If you got it flaunt it.”

When you see people decked out in their skimpy carnival costumes that leave nothing to the imagination, what do you think their intentions are, but to exude sexuality? If not, they would wear smocks or habits.

Some Caribbean high schools for girls have strict dress codes, insisting that girls wear long frocks, sometimes down to their ankles. The decree is: “You will dress appropriately with a modicum of decency. You will not indulge in sexy dressing.”

Similarly, other institutions

## Sexy Dressing



have strict dress codes for women. No sleeveless blouses, no miniskirts, no tight shorts, no sexy jeans. And even in courthouses, there is the accusatory term, “She was dressed seductively your honor.”

A woman knows how to dress when she wants to catch a man. she dresses sexily, sometimes in the most overt way, other times in the most subtle covert way. Call girls wear the most revealing outfits with cut-outs, cleavage showing, glutes bulging, mons pubis protruding and sometimes barely a sliver of fabric in the most indelicate of places to give

the illusion of propriety. What would be the point of going out there in business suits or formal wear?

Some women carry it off, as they exude sex appeal, while others go too far and might as well be butt naked. Then there are some, who no matter what they wear, they have the sex appeal of a hippo, and no sexy dressing can help them.

Why do you think they have sexy lingerie and other types of clothes designed to entice men? That's because women love to dress sexily. No woman who wants to seduce her man goes to bed wearing a formal pants suit. Sexy dressing yes, but make sure that you don't excite the wrong target.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Tony Robinson can be reached at [seido1yard@gmail.com](mailto:seido1yard@gmail.com)



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# Make America Whole: How To Heal Our Divided Society

BY KEITH MAGEE

On Wednesday, January, Jan. 17, 2021, a White man strolled into an office, settled down in a leather chair, and casually put his dirty boots on the desk in front of him. I saw this and I wept.

For this was not his office, but that of Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. She had been evacuated by armed police for her own protection and the man, Richard Barnett, was part of a pro-Trump mob of domestic terrorists who had smashed their way into the U.S. Capitol building.

It had been a long and traumatic day, at the end of a long and traumatic four years, and this is what reduced me to tears – a photograph of a White man with his feet up.

How very easily he and his fellow extremists had strolled, virtually unchallenged by police, through the halls of power. How comfortably he committed the crime of sedition, disgracing our country while the whole world watched on in amazement. How warmly he was praised for his thuggery by a president who called him ‘a very special

person,’ and a ‘patriot.’

I wept for our national humiliation and for the violation of our precious, fragile democracy. I wept for all the Black protesters who just six months previously had knelt on the hard, hot streets outside that very building to peacefully proclaim that their lives mattered, and who had been beaten, pepper sprayed, and arrested for their pains.

Many of the rioters who stormed the Capitol in the dying days of Donald Trump’s nightmarish presidency, had tattoos linking them to White supremacist groups, with their roots in some of the darkest – or perhaps whitest – chapters of U.S. history.

Racism and its dreadful consequences are deeply engrained in our past and have never been fully resolved. Our present is tainted by the ongoing devaluing of those with Black and Brown bodies – we can still hear their blood crying from the ground.

I truly believe that the struggle for justice for all will one day succeed, but not before we, as a nation, own the sin of racism. Its horrors cannot



Can the ‘Two Americas’ find a way to unite?

be negated – they must be examined honestly and repented, and the pernicious myth of race dismantled for good.

But rather than seek retaliation against those who are taken in by racist lies and madcap conspiracy theories, we should reach out to them. We should strive for reconciliation, for with God’s blessings of forgiveness and grace, even the worst of us can be turned away from evil in repentance and redirected towards good.

If it proves beyond us to change these people’s minds, then we must hope to teach their children the true values of our democracy. We must show them how to also love those who don’t

look or sound like their parents, so that this hatred does not poison the hearts of any more generations of Americans.

Sadly, the divisions we face today are open wounds that go well beyond a few extremist groups – they permeate throughout our society. President-Elect Biden is now fighting to mend the soul of America. He cannot do it alone or quickly – a cure will take decades – but he can lead us all in bold, strategic steps towards healing.

Wounds must be allowed to breathe: first, we must talk openly to one another about our discontent and our anger, our fears and our hopes. And we must listen. This will require love, civility, and courage, but we should not rest until we find common ground. We may be surprised by how much unites us. We all have a soul. We all dream of a better future. We are all American patriots. We all long for justice. We are all God’s children.

Having revealed our shared humanity, the next step will be to repair our broken nation. Politicians, faith and community

leaders, and educators will all have their roles to play, but each of us has the capacity to offer our own unique solution – look into your heart and ask yourself, what can I do to make the world better?

How can I overcome my distrust of the ‘other,’ and truly attempt to engage with, understand, and even love someone whose ideologies are utterly different to my own? How can I redirect both our energies towards the common good?

If I could, I would like to sit down in a brave space somewhere with that man who put his feet up in Nancy Pelosi’s office. I would ask him what he was hoping to achieve that day, what he was so angry about and why?

I would try to really listen to his answers, however, abhorrent I found his beliefs. I suspect he would tell me that he thought he was fighting to save democracy, because he saw it as the very soul of America, the source of all hope. Now that, surely, is one thing that we would be able to agree on. And perhaps that would be a start.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Keith Magee is the author of the forthcoming *Prophet Justice: Essays and Reflections on Race, Religion and Politics*, scheduled to be released on January 26, 2021. He is a public theologian, public intellectual, political advisor and social justice scholar. He is also the Lead Pastor at The Berachah Church. To order a pre-release copy of *Prophet Justice* - visit [4justicesake.org/prophetic-new-products](http://4justicesake.org/prophetic-new-products)



## Caribbean Countries Will Get COVID-19 Vaccines Soon

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

to EUL and manufacturing production capacity,” PAHO said, adding that supply deals also had to be agreed with producers.

“The Pan American Health Organization has provided technical support to the Member States to support them in each phase of their participation in the COVAX Mechanism and in preparation of their national COVID-19 vaccination plans,” said PAHO Assistant Director Jarbas Barbosa. “The use of these vaccines will allow us to advance in the fight to confront this pandemic, but we must still maintain and strengthen public health measures – such as the use of masks, avoiding crowds, social distancing and frequent hand washing – to prevent transmission, increased cases and deaths from COVID-19.”

The GAVI alliance, the group that co-leads COVAX with

WHO, said last week it aimed to deliver 2.3 billion vaccines worldwide by the end of 2021, including 1.8 billion free doses to lower-income countries.

PAHO’s Revolving Fund, together with UNICEF, is procuring all vaccines on behalf of COVAX for countries in the Americas.

The Americas region will need to immunize approximately 500 million people to control the pandemic. The COVAX Mechanism is a global effort to accelerate equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and ensure that they reach all those who need to receive them.

The goal is to provide vaccines for at least 20% of the population in each country participating in COVAX to protect those most at risk for severe forms of COVID-19.

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# Get Ready For Global Reggae Night



Koffee

A Global Reggae Night is coming to your computer this month.

## Caribbean Artists Salute VP Kamala Harris In Song

Caribbean artistes are among those celebrating the meteoric rise of the US' first Caribbean roots Vice President, Kamala Harris.

Jamaican-born dancehall star, Flourgon, who in January settled a USD 300 million lawsuit with Miley Cyrus for his 1988 Jamaican chart-topping hit single, 'We Run Things,' remade his song especially for Harris as he joined the recent Global Caribbean Inauguration celebration in her honor, titled 'Celebrating Caribbean American Kamala,' presented by Invest Caribbean and the Caribbean American Action Network, (CAAN).

"Kamala Harris run things, things nuh run we," sang the artiste, whose real name is Michael May. "Run The US and run it properly, everybody irie."

Also remaking her 1994 song for Harris was reggae singer Nadine Sutherland, who was also part of the event. "Kamala come in with the action, not a bag a mouth," sang Sutherland. "She clean when she step in a de White House."

The song also says Harris is "like fine wine."

While Papa Michigan, of Michigan and Smiley fame, dropped a new song in honour of Harris' win and the history making achievement that is titled, 'Reggae in the White House.'

"Reggae in the White House, everyone is welcome," sang the Jamaican-born reggae singer, born Anthony Fairclough. "Reggae in the White House. Blowing up the roof tops."

See all the performances here from the Invest Caribbean/ Caribbean American Action Network tribute to the daughter of a Jamaican and Indian immigrants on the ICN LLC YouTube channel, who declared in brief remarks at the event: "I'm proud to be with you, as a vice-president elect with roots in the Caribbean."

NewsAmericasNow.com



Reggae sensation and Grammy winning star, Koffee, is one of the artiste confirmed for the event. According to organizers, every Saturday night in February of the virtual Reggae Month will feature performances from internationally acclaimed artistes.

The first Saturday night, February 6th, is the birthday of reggae icon and legend, Bob Marley, so that will be a tribute to him.

Koffee will close off the series on February 27th. She is the youngest person to be awarded the Grammy for the Best Reggae Album category for her 2019 EP, Rapture, at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards.

Reggae Month will be the show's 14th staging and promises a full slate of virtual events. It is being celebrated this year under the theme 'Come Ketch di Riddim Virtually.'

Brand Reggae achieved its inscription as Jamaica's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in 2018 and will see several overseas-based visitors to Jamaica at the invitation of

the Government. The Mayor of City Kingston has endorsed the partnerships which have been an important part of Kingston as a UNESCO Creative City, designated in December 2015.

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## HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

## No Such Thing As “Fat But Fit” Says New Study



A new study claims that there is no such thing as ‘fat and fit.’ According to the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, being overweight or obese still poses significant cardiovascular risks even if one exercises regularly.

The authors of the research used data from over 527,000 participants, 42 percent of whom were of a normal weight, 41 percent of whom were overweight and 18 percent of whom were obese.

The authors assessed Body Mass Index (BMI) as well as leisure-time physical activity levels, and inactivity levels. They took diabetes prevalence, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia information as well.

According to the results,

being either regularly or insufficiently active provided cardiovascular protections compared to inactivity for all risk factors within each BMI category.

“Our study suggests that, although physical activity mitigates - at least partly - the detrimental effects of overweight/obesity on cardiovascular disease risk,” the researchers wrote. “Excess body weight per se is associated with a remarkable increase in the prevalence of major risk factors and four-fold higher odds for hypercholesterolaemia, hypertension, and diabetes. Weight loss per se should remain a primary target for health policies aimed at reducing CVD risk in people with overweight/obesity.”



## Here’s What You Can Do To Keep The Little Ticker, Ticking

February is American Heart Month: Heart Health. Did you know that by making small healthy changes to your lifestyle, you can help prevent damage to your heart? Here are FOUR simple tips you can use to make a big impact and keep the little ticker, ticking:

### 1: Get checked to ensure you know your blood pressure levels as well as if you have diabetes and keep monitoring it.

If your blood pressure is very high or very low, your healthcare provider can help you find the right medication, says the American Heart Health Association. Diabetes is also major risk factor for cardiovascular disease and stroke, so ensure you know if you have it or not.

Remember, Type 2 diabetes is treatable and preventable, but many people don’t recognize early warning signs, or they avoid seeking treatment out of fear of complications. Talk to your health care provider.

### 2: Watch Your Diet And Weight

If you are obese, change your diet by eliminating sugary drinks and desserts. Another tip is to



Heart Association recommends that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderately intense or at least 75 minutes of vigorous physical (or a combination of both) each week.

### 4: Kick The Stress

Chronic stress can affect the body so try something to help you cope or eliminate stress such as deep breathing, meditation

and changing your thoughts to happy, positive ones, knowing things are always working out no matter the situation currently. Stress activates the body’s fight-or-flight response, raises blood pressure and triggers an inflammatory response. And it creates low-grade inflammation. Emotional distress especially can make the body more vulnerable to a plaque rupture event, such as a heart attack or a stroke so kick it to the curb.



limit red meat in favor of lean meats such as chicken or fish, and watch portions on carbohydrate-heavy foods, such as pasta and rice. Look for whole grain options instead. Make vegetables the main part of the meal and fill up with those rather than other foods. If you’re thirsty, drink water, not juice.

### 3: Add a Dollop Of Exercise

You can strengthen your cardiovascular system and burn extra calories by adding simple exercise routines to your lifestyle, health experts said. Aim for at least 30 minutes of walking a day. The American

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## Caribbean Recipes

Here are a few delicious Caribbean dishes you can easily incorporate into your weeknight or week-day menus this month. Chef Creig Greenridge of CM Catering who has been named Barbados Chef of the Year twice and was selected as the Caribbean Tourism Organization's Rum & Rhythm People's Choice Chef of the Year in 2018 and 2019, shares his Barbados Fish Cake recipe.

### BARBADOS FISH CAKE



Barbados Fish Cake

#### Ingredients

- 2 lbs salted cod
- 1 oz dill, chopped
- 1 oz thyme, chopped
- 1 oz Marjoram
- 1 oz chives, chopped
- 3 oz onion, chopped
- 1 oz scotch bonnet pepper, chopped
- 1 tbsp pepper sauce
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 2 lb white flour
- 1 ltr cooking oil
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp curry powder
- Salt to taste
- 16 oz water (plus extra if needed)

#### Dipping Sauce Recipe:

##### Ingredients:

- 12 oz mayonnaise
- 3 oz mustard
- 20 oz lime juice

- 2 oz brown sugar
- 2 oz sweet chili sauce
- 1 oz Bajan pepper sauce
- 1 tsp dill, chopped

#### Method

##### Cod fish

1. Boil cod twice for 30 minutes each time and submerge in water to cool before removing and shredding finely. Keep the salted cod water to add to the batter later.
2. Mix dry ingredients together.
3. Gradually add salted water from cod and mix gently with a spoon, or by hand, to form a thick batter. Add more water as needed.
4. Add oil to saucepan and heat until it reaches 350°F.
5. Coat a teaspoon in oil and scoop batter into balls.
6. Drop formed batter into hot oil, being careful not to overcrowd the pan. Fry at medium heat until golden brown.
7. Let cool and enjoy!

##### Dipping Sauce

Add ingredients to a bowl and whisk until well-blended together.

### POTATO ROTI

Among the many delicious roti dishes coming out of the Caribbean is the unique potato roti. Here's you can make it easily this weekend according to Alicia'sPepperpot.

#### Ingredients

- Potato filling
- 7-8 medium sized potatoes



#### Potato Roti

- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp roasted cumin (geera)
- 2-3 stems scallions, thinly sliced
- 1-2 wiri wiri pepper, seeds removed (or scotch bonnet)
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed (optional)

#### Dough

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vegetable shortening
- 1 1/4 cup warm water for kneading (more if needed)
- Extra flour for dusting
- Oil for cooking roti

#### Method

##### Making the dough:

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Rub shortening into flour mixture until small bits form. Add water a little at a time and knead into a soft smooth ball.

Rub a little oil on the top of the dough ball to prevent from crusting. Cover with a damp paper towel. Let dough rest for minimum 45 minutes.

##### Making the filling:

Peel and chop potatoes. Boil until cooked through, but not too soft. Drain potatoes and

mash immediately adding all ingredients. Potato should be smooth with no lumps. Taste filling and adjust seasonings.

##### Assemble and Cook:

Divide dough into tennis ball sized pieces.

Flatten each dough ball one at a time.

Rub a little oil on dough, add 2-3 tbsp potato filling, then seal. Place on floured dish and cover with a damp paper towel to keep crust from forming.

Complete process until all dough or potato has been used.

Heat griddle to medium heat.

Roll each dough ball to 1/4-inch thickness with a rolling pin.

Place roti on griddle to cook. Once roti shows tiny bubbles, flip onto other side and brush with oil.

Flip back to the first side and brush with oil.

Do not allow very dark brown patches to form as it will yield a stiff roti.

Remove roti from heat, stack on top of each other. Do not clap.

All Recipes From  
NewsAmericasNow.com



## This Jamaican Woman Is Sharing Her Sorrel With The World

Jamaican national Audrey Powell quit her corporate job last year to pursue her passion. Today she is sharing that passion – sorrel – with the world.

The New Jersey resident, according NJMonthly.com, recently launched Spicegrove, fresh sorrel (hibiscus) and ginger along with lime peel and cinnamon, allspice as well as raw cane sugar with no added preservatives.

The Maplewood resident is selling her sorrel online through her website and via Facebook and Instagram.

You can order Spicegrove online at spicegroveroselle.com. Spicegrove is also sold locally at the Baker's Street Market



Audrey Powell (NJMonthly.com image)

and Coop General Market in Maplewood, NJ as well as at Eclectic Chic Boutique and Lulu's in Montclair.

Rewritten from NJMonthly.com



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## Is Dale Holness In The Race For Congress?

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

His one-year term as Broward County Mayor ended in November 2020 and now Jamaican-born politician, Dale Holness has stepped back into the role of County Commissioner serving District 9.

But while many have been speculating on whether Holness, a well-loved local lawmaker who has been fighting for equity in housing, healthcare, financial wellbeing, will run for Congress, he has said he is not at this point.

The seat many have set their eyes on is that of Congressman Alcee Lamar Hastings, who has served as the U.S. Representative for

Florida's 20th congressional district since 2013. The district includes most of the majority-black precincts in and around Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The longest serving Congressman for the state of Florida, Hastings is now in his 14th term.

The seat is not yet declared open but will be up for re-election in 2022 even though Hastings has not been officially declared he will run again or bow out.

But some have already filed to run for Hastings' seat. However, Holness is adamant that he is not running for the seat at this point in time, but instead preparing himself if and when the seat becomes available.

"I am not going to come out



Dale Holness has said he has not yet decided if he will run for Congress or not.

in front of him," said Holness, adding that a couple of people have already filed for the seat and are being criticized for

doing so. "I will wait until Congressman Hastings makes his decision as to what he is doing before I make any decision. Out of respect for him, out of honor for him in the service that he has rendered to our community for the past 30 years."

Holness, however, says he seeks to learn from the Congressman as he looks beyond his Commission role.

"I've worked with him very closely, especially on immigration issues for our people," he told Caribbean Today. "We can learn from his vocal stance and support for the people in his district. And, though some people may complain about nuances here and there, the fact is, when it came for someone to stand up for immigrants, he's been at the forefront. Whether it be TPS for Haitians, or to ensure that our system looks to get those who are here out of status fully integrated into America, he's been there."

### RACIAL EQUITY

Right now, Holness said his focus is on building and maintaining better and stronger communities in Broward county, pointing to his fight for racial parity through the Racial Equity Taskforce he created last year.

The Taskforce has been charged to look at all disparities that exist and figure out how to make meaningful changes. Motivated by the city's Finance Office 2020 research that revealed the country lost \$16 trillion in GDP because of racial inequalities in America, Holness, the Taskforce, and partners, are keen to address the systemic issues at the core of these statistics.

"I think this will be a model for many others to utilize," he said. "Because what we did with this Taskforce is we didn't just make it a governmental thing. We have Broward Workshop, which is 110 of the largest most powerful businesses in Broward County. The legislation requires that they get at the table. It also requires that Chambers of Commerce be represented."

Also involved are Public/Private partnerships, the NAACP, Urban League, Black Lives Matter, Florida New Majority, Hispanic Unity, the Hospital District, the School Board and Broward College, Holness added.

Part of Holness' push for racial equity resulted in the creation of the Police and Criminal Justice Oversight Board that will look at criminal justice, abuse, sentencing and charges by the State Attorney's office. And with this, instituting a dashboard that allows ordinary citizens to see and interact with local law enforcement to build transparency into the system. These initiatives, as well as others, is what's driving Holness, and his constituency wants to see him rewarded.

"They (constituents) are saying, if there is an opportunity for you to serve somewhere else, we would like to see you take advantage of that opportunity, and that they will support me," he added. "There is a groundswell of people who have reached out to me to encourage me to seek higher office. But, as of right now that decision has not been made by me. We'll look to see what the possibilities are and how I fit in."



## Jamaican Immigrant Takes Her Place On The Palm Beach Soil & Water Conservation District Board

A Jamaican immigrant has made history by becoming the first black woman to take a seat on the Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

The granddaughter of a farmworker, Ann Marie Sorrell was sworn in on Jan. 28, 2021 after winning the Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District Board Seat 2 by a landslide.

As one of the two candidates who ran for the seat, Sorrell won nearly 66 percent of the votes, totaling 398,354 votes out of the total 607,697 votes cast. "There are so many residents who are unfamiliar or unaware of our wetlands, how our water system works, and the economic impact that farming and agriculture has in our county and our state," says Sorrell, "With that in mind, I will bring a fresh and diverse voice, new leadership, and the ability to communicate the importance of



New Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District Board member, Jamaican Ann-Marie Sorrell.

sustainability and conservation matters to all constituents in Palm Beach County."

The District works with local businesses and agencies to

provide conservation services throughout Palm Beach County. The affairs of the District are directed by a board of five supervisors, men, and women, who serve without pay and are locally elected.

Sorrell is also the founder and President & CEO of The Mosaic Group, an award-winning advertising, public relations, marketing, and government relations firm and has served as an adjunct professor at Palm Beach State College for 5 years.

Last year, she also founded Cannabiziac, South Florida's first Cannabiz Incubator, Accelerator, and Coworking community for the cannabis industry. She migrated to Pahokee, Florida with her family from Jamaica to be with her grandfather who was a farmworker in the sugarcane industry. She has a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management from the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and a Masters of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.



## Join The Miss Lou Reading Festival

The 14th annual Louise Bennett-Coverley Reading Festival is coming to a computer near you this Saturday February 6th starting at 2 p.m. EST.

Titled "Tek Kin Teet Kibba Heartburn," the event will feature one of Jamaica's cultural entertainer and comedian, Dr. Michael Abrahams, an obstetrician and gynecologist by profession from Kingston. Dr. Abrahams got his start in entertainment in 2006, when he performed on the popular "Professionals in Cabaret" at Morgan Harbour's, DeeJays' Original Songs on Stage. Later that year, popular comedian Owen "Blakka" Ellis, approached him to be a speaker at the launch of "The International Comedy fest 2K6," on the topic of the health benefits of laughter.

This year's event will

pay special tribute to the late Reverend Easton Lee, who recently passed here in South Florida. Father Lee, as he was affectionately known, will posthumously presented with the first Lifetime Cultural Award "Lionheart Award" presented by the South Florida, Louise Bennet Coverley Heritage Council.

The annual Festival, presented this year under the patronage of Jamaica's Consul General, R. Oliver Mair, continues its tradition serving as a platform for conversations with other cultural artists and literary folks, whose readings were inspired by Miss Lou, the rich Jamaican cultural heritage and their folkloric experiences.

To participate in the virtual event, register at [louisebennettheritage.com](http://louisebennettheritage.com).



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## CITY OF MIRAMAR

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<p>• <b>Ballot Instructions:</b> To vote, fill in the oval <input type="radio"/> completely next to your choice. Use only the marking device provided or a black pen. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.</p> <p>• <b>Instrucciones Para La Boleta:</b> Para votar, llene completamente el ovalo <input type="radio"/> junto a su selección. Use sólo una pluma de tinta negra para marcar la boleta. Si se equivoca, pida una nueva boleta. Si borra algo o hace marcas, es posible que su voto no se cuente.</p> <p>• <b>Enfòmasyon Sou Bilten Vot:</b> Pou vote, byen kolore tout andan oval <input type="radio"/> ki akote respons ou chwazi a. Sèlman sèvi ak yon plim nwa pou ekri sou bilten vot la. Si w fè yon erè, mande yo ba w yon nouvo bilten vot. Si w efase oubyen fè nouvo mak, lap posib pou vot ou pa valab ankò.</p>		
<p><b>Miramar</b></p> <p><b>City Commission Seat 1</b> Comisionado de la Ciudad Escaño 1 Komisè Vil La Syèj 1 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) (Vote pou Youn)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Maxwell B. Chambers</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chris Koval</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kerri-Ann Nesbeth</p>		
<p><b>City Commission Seat 2</b> Comisionado de la Ciudad Escaño 2 Komisè Vil La Syèj 2 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) (Vote pou Youn)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yvette Colbourne</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Darline Riggs</p>		
<p><b>City Commission Seat 3</b> Comisionado de la Ciudad Escaño 3 Komisè Vil La Syèj 3 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) (Vote pou Youn)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Winston Barnes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Val B. Glenister</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sylvia Grandberry</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lixon Nelson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nari Tomlinson</p>		

Precinct No.	Polling Stations	Address
W001	Vernon E. Hargray Youth Enrichment Center	7000 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL 33023
W002	Pembroke Road Baptist Church	7130 Pembroke Road, Miramar, FL 33023
W003	Miramar United Methodist Church	2507 Utopia Drive, Miramar, FL 33023
W004	Vernon E. Hargray Youth Enrichment Center	7000 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL 33023
W005	Fairway Elementary School	7850 Fairway Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33023
W006	Sunshine Elementary School	7737 La Salle Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33023
W007	Miramar United Methodist Church	2507 Utopia Drive, Miramar, FL 33023
W008	Ansinn Sports Complex	10801 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33025
W009	Coconut Palm Elementary School	13601 Monarch Lakes Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33027
W010	A.C. Perry Elementary School	6850 SW 34 Street, Miramar, FL 33023
W011	A.C. Perry Elementary School	6850 SW 34 Street, Miramar, FL 33023
W012	Miramar High School	3601 SW 89 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33025
W013	Sea Castle Elementary School	9600 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33025
W014	Coral Cove Elementary School	5100 SW 148 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33027
W015	Sunset Lakes Elementary School	18400 SW 25 Street, Miramar, FL 33029
W016	Sunset Lakes Community Center	2801 SW 186 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33029
W017	Dolphin Bay Elementary School	16450 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, FL 33027
W018	Silver Lakes Elementary School	2300 SW 173 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33029
W019	Sunset Lakes Community Center	2801 SW 186 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33029
W020	Coral Cove Elementary School	5100 SW 148 Avenue, Miramar, FL 33027
W021	New Renaissance Middle School	10701 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33025
W022	Miramar Town Center	2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025
W023	New Renaissance Middle School	10701 Miramar Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33025
W024	Miramar Elementary School	6831 SW 26 Street, Miramar, FL 33023
W025	Fairway Elementary School	7850 Fairway Boulevard, Miramar, FL 33023

YOUR POLLING LOCATION is listed on voter I.D. card. You must notify Broward County Supervisor of Election's Office if you move from the address on your voter I.D. card. If you are unsure of the polling location, call 954-357-7050.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

PHOTO AND SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED when you go to your polling place to vote. Each elector is required to present a Florida Driver's License, a Florida Identification Card issued under F.S.S. 322.051, or any other acceptable photo I.D.



## SPORTS



www.caribbeantoday.com

## Tributes Pour In For Luton

Tributes from around the football world are mounting after the sad news of the passing of former striker, Jamaican Luton Shelton.

UK Soccer club, Sheffield United, for whom he played, says it is saddened at the passing of its former striker.

"The condolences of all at the Blades are with Luton's family at this difficult time," a team statement said.

FIFA tweeted: "FIFA and world football are in mourning. Rest in peace, Luton."

Concacaf also tweeted that it is "deeply saddened to learn that Luton Shelton has passed away."

"He was Jamaica's all-time top goal scorer and played in three @GoldCup's. RIP, Luton," the statement added.



Former Reggae Boyz and Sheffield United striker, Jamaican Luton Shelton

Shelton, 35, passed away in Jamaica after a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as motor neurone disease, which attacks

the nervous system.

Jamaica news reports claim Shelton, who scored a record 35 goals in 75 appearances for the Reggae Boyz, was found

unresponsive at his home. Shelton had come through the ranks at Harbour View and made his name as a regular goal scorer in Jamaican football before moving to Sweden with Helsingborgs in 2006. He moved on to Sheffield United a year later, and made his debut for the club against Manchester United at Old Trafford in April 2007.

He impressed on his full debut against Manchester United at Old Trafford in a battling 2-0 defeat and played twice more in the topflight for the Blades.

After relegation to the Championship, Luton made 21 appearances the following

season in all competitions, scoring four times.

Perhaps his greatest, and most famous, moment in a Blades shirt arrived in January 2008. Luton played a vital role in United's FA Cup victory over Manchester City when he netted the first goal in a 2-1 win after Lee Martin's cross deflected kindly into his path off a balloon.

He left Bramall Lane to join Norwegian club Valerenga in 2008 and also had spells playing in Denmark, Turkey and Russia before returning to Jamaica. Shelton is survived by a wife and three children.

*Rewritten from NBC News and multiple other news sources*



## Countdown Is On To The Regional Super50 Cup



The countdown is on to the Regional Super50 Cup – a regional inter-country cricket tourney set for February 7-27 in Antigua.

The NAGICO Super50 Cup is the marquee 50-over event in the West Indies featuring six long-standing territorial rivals - Barbados Pride, Guyana Jaguars, Jamaica Scorpions, Leeward Islands Hurricanes, Trinidad & Tobago Red Force, and the Windward Islands Volcanoes.

The tournament will see the six teams clash in 19 matches starting from February 7th, when Leeward Islands Hurricanes host the Windward Islands Volcanoes.

Each team will play each other on a round-robin basis with the top four teams qualifying for the semi-finals and the opportunity to reach the grand final. Matches will be played at Antigua's two international cricket venues - the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) and the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS). There will be 13

matches at CCG including the semi-finals and final, and six matches at SVRS.

The tournament will come to an exciting climax when the new champions are crowned on February 27th. The 2019-20 champions, West Indies Emerging Players, are unable to defend their 2019 trophy due to COVID-19 constraints, however several of those players now feature in the squads of the six competing franchise teams, one of which will emerge as the Super50 Cup champions.

"It is very good that cricket is coming back to the Caribbean ... players will get the opportunity to showcase their skills and entertain our fans. It has been a trying 2020 for cricketers and the whole Caribbean, so it is really good that we have the CG Insurance Super50 Cup being played at this time and hopefully it can unearth some new talent," said West Indies ODI captain Kieron Pollard in a statement.



## Caribbean Roots Footballer Pitches In To Help With On Food Insecurity

A Caribbean roots NFL star this week traded football for groceries as he did his part to help fight food insecurity in America.

Haitian roots, New England Patriots running back Sony Michel helped load food items that will be distributed to local families in need, at the Yawkey Boys and Girls Club in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

The program is part of Stop & Shop and 98.5 The Sports Hub's "Five Yards for Families" campaign.

"I'm a big believer in serving the community, giving back," Michel was quoted by the Boston Globe as saying. "I'm



Caribbean roots New England Patriots Sony Michel helped load food items to be distributed to local families in need.

very fortunate to be in a position where I don't really have to worry about where my next meal is coming from."

For every 5 rushing yards

the Patriots recorded this season, Stop & Shop pledged to donate five bags of groceries. The team ultimately tallied 2,346 yards, which means more than 35,000 pounds of food will be delivered to 16 local nonprofits, including 10 Boys and Girls Clubs across Boston.

Michel, who missed seven games on injured reserve, accounted for a fifth of the team's total, running for 449 yards and a touchdown.

Food items set to be given to needy family include apples, oranges, bananas, pasta, tomato sauce, beans, brown rice, pretzels and popcorn among other.

The Patriots are missing the postseason for the first time since 2008.

*NewsAmericasNow.com*



## Record Defeat For T&T Men's Soccer Team

Trinidad and Tobago's men's soccer team, The Soca Warriors, equaled their worst-ever result when they were savaged 7-0 by a second string United States, in an international friendly at Exploria Stadium in Orlando, FL on Jan. 31, 2021.

Fielding a side comprising eight new overseas-based players mainly from the Major League Soccer and the United Soccer League, T&T found themselves 4-0 down at the break and never recovered.

Jonathan Lewis (2nd, 55th), Jesús Ferreira (9th, 62nd) and Paul Arriola (22nd, 41st) all notched braces while Miles Robinson (52nd) got a single goal. The visitors squandered their only opportunity to come away with some pride when goalkeeper Matt Turner saved Alvin Jones from the spot in the 66th minute.

For new head coach Terry Fenwick, the result proved a chastening welcome to the job and he said afterwards Trinidad and Tobago had lacked a "big attitude."

Lewis's close-range finish put the hosts ahead just after the opening whistle and Ferreira doubled the lead courtesy of Samuel Vines's cross. Arriola's double strike before the interval thanks to assists from Ferreira then ruled out any chance of a comeback by Trinidad and Tobago.

The Caribbean side are in the early stages of their preparation for their opening FIFA World Cup qualifier next




Trinidad & Tobago men's Soca Warriors suffered a record defeat at the hands of the US on Jan. 31, 2021. (Getty Image)

month and are expected to play a couple more friendlies against fellow Caribbean Football Union sides to further enhance their preparation.

*Edited from CMC*





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# Black History Month Events You Should Know

It's another Black History Month, and this one is especially significant, coming on the heels of last summer's Black Lives Matter protest that culminated in the eruption of Black voters and the election of a new President and the US' first Black, Caribbean and Indian American Vice President. Here's how you can celebrate in South Florida this #BHM.

## Powerful and Historic Virtual Experience To Empower Students and Communities



You Will Be Able To Virtually Tour The National Center For Civil And Human Rights. (Microsoft Sway image)

Microsoft will highlight and virtually transport 13 of the world's top Black History Museum exhibits into every student's home or classroom across North America this Black History Month.

This partnership with museums, historical landmarks, cultural centers, athletes, and civic influencers worldwide will include a month-long series of FREE immersive and interactive experiences for K-12 schools and the community to celebrate and learn.

The Black History month journey will be available from February 1-28, 2021. Register at <https://aka.ms/BHM2021> request a private workshop just for your classroom, school, group, or organization.

## Highlights Of The Impactful Virtual Activities Lined-Up Include:

- Walk with MLK virtually & fight for civil rights in the Selma-to-Montgomery Marches of 1965
- Step back into the Civil Rights Era to witness the struggle for life & liberty for all at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights
- Learn about policies that impacted Black communities & Muhammad Ali's fight against systemic racism at the Ali Center's "Truth Be Told" exhibit
- Hear inspirational children's stories about Black History like Hidden Figures & Let the Children March, with books read aloud by some of our favorite NBA & NFL players for K-2nd graders
- Fly through the eyes of WWII's Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black military aviators in the US Army Air Corps at the

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

- Hit a home run with Satchel Paige & Jackie Robinson at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

Participating students will learn about policies that impacted Black communities and see a presentation that will showcase Muhammad Ali's fight against systemic racism at the Ali Center's "Truth Be Told" exhibit, nationally.

"Black History month is a time for us to emphasize the rich heritage and culture of

black people as well as spotlight historical events and figures in the black community," states Shy Averett, Global Sr. Community Program and Events Manager for Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. "Black History Month is a time for people to come together and learn lessons from the past and apply them today and in the future."

"We need to know our history so we can know what our future will look like," states Haitian-American Cliff Avril, a ten-year NFL Vet, Superbowl Champ with the Seattle Seahawks and Pro Bowler. "My Black history hero is Toussaint Louverture, Haitian General, who led the Haitian Revolution and led the entire island of Haitians to freedom."

The program presented by Fort Monroe Authority showcases the significant impact that slavery had on the story of America and the stories of freedom seekers from the very beginning - from the Africans who taken against their will from Angola and landing there at Point Comfort (now known as Fort Monroe) in Virginia, an English colony in 1619, to the courage of three enslaved men—James Townsend, Frank Baker, and Sheppard Malloy.

## Celebrating At The Adrienne Arsht Center

The Adrienne Arsht Center has a lineup of in-person performances and online events commemorating Black History Month this February.

The virtual lineup includes the second-annual Heritage Festival and the final installment of The Heritage Project Online Salon Series: The Business of Show, along with previously announced in-person

performances by New Orleans jazz legends Dirty Dozen Brass Band and Florida-based R&B and soul artist Keba & The Usual Suspects.

## Heritage Fest 2021

The second-annual Heritage Festival will feature a multi-disciplinary, day-long celebration of performance and culture in Miami while supporting Pan-African art in our community.

This online production will feature performances from visual performance artist, scholar and award-winning documentarian Omilani Alarcon; community ambassador, performance artist and cultural curator Deborah Magdalena among others.

The virtual festival will have something for everyone, with fun for the entire family. Tune in to learn a new recipe, listen to Miami's Pan-African history, take a virtual tour of Wynwood's newest murals, take in beautiful choreography, create a work of art and more – all from the safety and comfort of your home. FREE.

Date: **Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 3 p.m.**  
**FREE - YouTube and Facebook Live**  
RSVP at [app.mobilecause.com/e/kzcbLw?vid=g9u7y](https://app.mobilecause.com/e/kzcbLw?vid=g9u7y)

## The Heritage Project Online Salon Series

This final salon in a six-part series will explore the economic impact and cultural significance of Black trailblazers in the arts and look at artists as business professionals and discuss how Black culture has become a commodity. The panel will consist of arts administrators, performers and others. Closed captioning will be provided.

The Heritage Project Online Salon Series was created by Arsht Center staff as a way to elevate Black experiences while uplifting Black voices during an important time in our nation's history. Beginning in September, the Center hosted free monthly discussions on Zoom, with topics including Songs of Freedom, Afro-Latinx Music Experience, Black Perspectives on the Great White Way, Black Street Art + Black Lives Matter, and Black Greek Step and Marching Band Traditions.

Date: **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**FREE - Zoom Webinar and Facebook Live.**  
RSVP - [app.mobilecause.com/e/Fz5OhA?vid=g9uaz](https://app.mobilecause.com/e/Fz5OhA?vid=g9uaz)

## BLM In Miramar

The City of Miramar is hosting a number of public events this Black History Month.

Freeform Art Saturday opens on Feb. 6th from 2-6 p.m. at the Miramar Cultural Center Arts Park

It will be hosted by Mayor Wayne Messam and will feature a

variety of outdoor activities, live music and local food for all ages. The event will include a: Youth Panel Discussion in the City Chambers; Student Light Boxes Live Art performance and Film at the theater and Artisan Vendors Miramar Cultural Center Arts Park (MCC) is located at 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar FL 33025.

## Black History Meets Reggae

A Reggae Icon Awards Event is set for Saturday, February 27 from 6:30 – 10 p.m. It will honor an international reggae artist and present the Marcus Garvey Award to a local champion who has brought about change in equality and immigration.

Where: **Miramar Amphitheater, 16801 Miramar Parkway, Miramar FL 33027**  
**Admission: Free**

## Fort Myers

On **Saturday, Feb. 6 from 2-6 p.m.**, Neenie's House in Fort Myers will be hosting a "FashionSmack." At the event, Jessica Wajoli will be introducing her clothing line to add to

her collection of jewelry and handworks from Ghana, Neenie's House said. The line is called "WajoliAfricanWear."

## Jacksonville

Jacksonville's downtown ballpark is set to welcome Raines and Ribault for another baseball exhibition next month.

The neighboring Northwest Jacksonville schools are scheduled to face off at 121 Financial Ballpark at **6:35 p.m. Feb. 12** in the second annual High School Heritage Classic, part of the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp's salute to Black History Month.

As in 2020, the schools will wear custom Jacksonville Red Caps uniforms in honor of the city's Negro Leagues team from 1938 to 1942.

The victor in the exhibition game receives the A. Philip Randolph Cup. Raines won last year's game, 8-4. Limited seating, subject to the ballpark's social distancing protocols, will be available through the Jumbo Shrimp's website or by phone at **(904) 358-2846**.



## #BLM FACTOIDS

### Did You Know?

The Black population, either alone or in combination with one or more races, in the United States in 2019 is: 48.2 million.

The percentage of African Americans age 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher in 2019 is: 87.9%.

The percentage of the employed Black population age 16 and older working in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2019 is:

30.7%.

The number of Black-owned employer businesses in the United States in 2017 is: 124,004.

The number of Black military veterans in the United States nationwide in 2019 is put at: 2.1 million.

Source: **The 2019 American Community Survey**



*Black History Month is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of black Americans and the central role they've played in U.S. history.*

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# This shouldn't be how we say hello...or goodbye.



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Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at  
**[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)**



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## US COVID-19 Travel Order Now In Effect

Caribbean tourism officials are rushing to increase COVID-19 testing capacity after the United States became the latest country to require nearly all arriving passengers to present a negative test within 72 hours of departure.

The new U.S. order went into effect on Jan. 26th. All air passengers arriving to the US from the Caribbean and any other foreign country must provide proof of the negative result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. The new rule includes US citizens and legal permanent residents returning.

Some Caribbean vacation spots, which attract U.S. tourists banned from traveling to other



US returning citizens, green card holders as well as visitors must have a negative COVID-19 test to now come in.

regions, are facing a strain on their COVID-19 testing resources as more governments

take additional steps to curb a second wave of the pandemic. Vanessa Ledesma, acting

CEO and director general of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, called new COVID-19 testing rules “a tremendous challenge” for the region due to a lack of testing equipment and lab facilities that can meet large demand in short turnaround times.

U.S. infectious disease specialist Dr. David Freedman warned of the risk of straining resources in poor countries that are struggling to test their own residents.

While analysts and some airline executives expect the new order will disrupt demand in the short term, U.S. carriers back the testing rules with the long-term

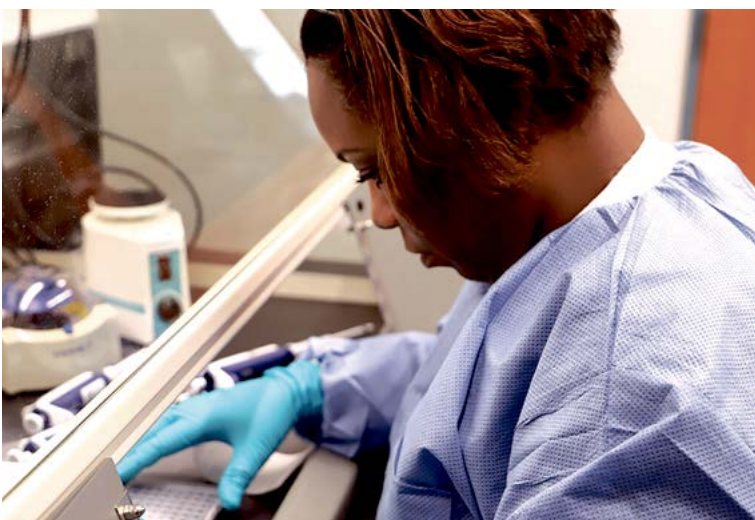
goal of reopening international markets. “I think you can see some short-term demand fluctuation but it’s the right answer for the long term,” Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian told Reuters.

With global travel limited by COVID-19 restrictions, the Caribbean is important for U.S. carriers American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta as well as for low-cost carriers like Southwest Airlines Co and Spirit Airlines.

*Rewritten from Thompson Reuters News Foundation*



## Jamaica Increases COVID-19 Testing Capacity To Meet International Requirements



Jamaica says it is expanding testing capabilities.

Jamaica has announced an increase in destination-wide COVID-19 testing capacity, bringing the island into readiness with the new rules and testing requirements for both United States and Canada-bound travelers.

Jamaica says its aggressive effort to expand testing capacity is part of a continued destination-

wide prioritization of safe and seamless travel experiences for international visitors.

A number of hotels and resorts are providing on-site COVID-19 testing for their guests. For travelers staying at other locations, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Tourism are working together to establish

mobile testing facilities within the Resilient Corridors. Testing resources will also be added at the Sangster International Airport and the Norman Manley International Airport. Antigen and PCR tests will also be conducted at 10 private laboratories approved by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The list of approved laboratories can be found online at [visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/testing-labs](http://visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/testing-labs).

“We can confidently assure travelers that Jamaica’s testing capacity will adequately meet the requirements for travel to the United States and Canada,” said Donovan White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board. “Jamaica is resilient. As we keep an eye toward other potential changes for international travelers, we are pleased with our destination-wide preparedness and the progress we have made to make COVID-19 testing even more accessible.”



## Canada’s Travel Ban To The Caribbean Now A Harsh Reality

The Justin Trudeau administration’s three-month-suspension of all flights from Canada to the Caribbean and Mexico at a critical time of year for airlines and tourism in both destinations is now a harsh reality.

The suspension will run through April 30th, in a deal Trudeau said was agreed to by Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing and Air Transat.

Affected customers will be offered full refunds given the services are being suspended with no alternative available. Suspended destinations include Montego Bay and Kingston, Jamaica; Antigua; Aruba, Barbados, Nassau, Bahamas and Providenciales, Turks & Caicos.

Furthermore, as of midnight on February 3, 2021, in addition to proof of a negative pre-departure test, flights arriving from the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America will now be funneled into only four Canadian airports: Montréal-Trudeau



Canada has suspended all travel to the Caribbean and Mexico.

International Airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

There is currently no flight ban on Canadian airlines to U.S. destinations.

### US WARNINGS

Meanwhile, the US is warning nationals to avoid all travel to the Turks & Caicos. The US State Department travel advisory of Feb. 1st, also warns US nationals to reconsider travel to St. Vincent & the Grenadines.



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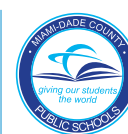
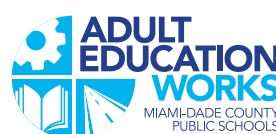


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