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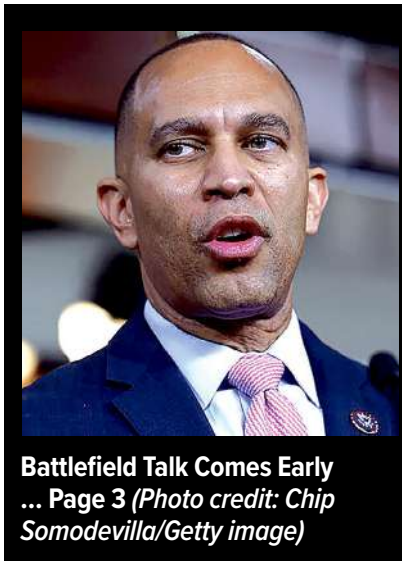
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## NEWS



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

## REGION

A 15-member royal delegation from Africa were in Jamaica last week to hold discussions about how the trans-Atlantic slave trade affected the continent.

Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), said the arrival of the seven kings and eight queens would continue discussions that started with the Trevelyan's apology in Grenada.

Among the topics discussed were how African monarchs played a role in selling their fellow Africans to colonizers to work as slaves on plantations across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Beckles noted the slave trade "ravaged" many of the African monarchies that prospered for centuries before colonialism.

## HAITI

Following a one-day Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mission to Haiti to see first-hand the situation in the troubled French-speaking member nation, Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness has reported that stakeholders want urgent action to secure residents who are under siege from violent gangs.

Holness led the working visit on Feb. 27th for what CARICOM said, in a brief statement issued after trip, was "the first opportunity for CARICOM officials to observe the situation on the ground and directly engage stakeholders in the continuing search for a solution to the on-going

situation in Haiti."

For their part, the stakeholders welcomed the special mission and said they were comforted that CARICOM was listening and exploring ways to offer support both for political stability and national security.

## GUYANA

The Guyana government is looking to develop its burgeoning oil and gas sector in a structured way to ensure oil companies bear their share of responsibilities from both an environmental and fiscal perspective, says Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo.

And he said the country is hoping to do that with the support of India. He noted that Guyana will also be seeking India's expertise as it moves to develop its gas policy, in the area of environmental management and overall capacity building. Guyana's first commercial oil production began in December 2019 from the Liza Phase 1 project, operated by ExxonMobil. Since then, several other projects have been announced, placing Guyana in the position of being one of the world's top oil-producing nations.

## SURINAME

The United States has condemned the recent Feb.

24th attack on the Surinamese National Assembly building and related acts of violence, saying that the incident was an unacceptable assault on democracy.

"We support the right to peaceful protest and respect for the rule of law. The United States remains committed to helping Suriname strengthen its democratic institutions," the US Embassy in Paramaribo said in a press release.

During a demonstration against President Chandrikapersad Santokhi's policies dozens of demonstrators entered the parliament grounds, vandalizing the lobby destroying possessions and smashing windows to the building with



This video screen grab shows demonstrators storming the Assembly building, where the Surinamese parliament is located. The police used tear gas and also fired shots, local media report. (Trend News image)

stones.

An ATM machine in the building was also destroyed and a reporter's car was looted and set on fire, several journalists covering the demonstration were also physically and verbally assaulted and beaten. In addition, a member of parliament who went to the demonstration to calm the angry mob was beaten by police officers.

According to police reports, in downtown Paramaribo, numerous shops were looted and government buildings were destroyed. Fire was also set in a historic building in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace near Independence Square. The fire brigade was quickly on the spot to extinguish the fire.

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago's opposition MP Roodal Moonilal has denied any knowledge of an investigation into the involvement of a member of the previous People's Partnership administration in human trafficking.

However, former legislator in the People's Partnership government Dr. Devant Maharaj has contended that Moonilal was the person assigned to lead that probe.

Following Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley revealing in Parliament that the 2022 United States Report on Human Trafficking pointed fingers at current Members of Parliament but not those sitting on the side of the government, Maharaj said he assisted in the international investigations conducted between 2010-2015 within the United National Congress (UNC) – one of the parties in the then coalition government – following allegations of human trafficking.

Meanwhile, Moonilal has called on Police

Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher to say whether lawmen were engaged in any investigation that involves members of Parliament whether Government or Opposition dealing with human trafficking."

## BARBADOS

The International Monetary Fund, (IMF), is predicting that economic recovery in Barbados will continue this year after growing by 10 per cent last year following a 14 per cent contraction during the 2020-2021 period.

An IMF delegation, headed by Deputy Division Chief, Pablo Morra, ended a four-day visit here for discussions

on the implementation of Barbados' updated Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT 2022) plan and reform efforts to build resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

BERT 2000 is being supported by the IMF under the Extended Fund Facility, (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) approved in December last year.

## ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Four opposition activists in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been denied station bail on charges that they held an illegal public meeting outside Parliament.

Luzette King, a retired nurse; her niece Adriana King, a 42-year-old teacher on suspension from the classroom; calypsonian Robert "Patches" Knights-King; and John Mofford were arrested outside the Parliament building, in Kingstown.

Lawyer Kay Bacchus-Baptiste said she is acting for the quartet, each of whom has been charged with failing to comply with the instructions of Police Corporal Roycel Davis when instructed to disperse from "an unlawfully held public meeting which was held within 200 yards of the Court House building when the House of Assembly was sitting."

Bacchus-Baptiste said that initially, a fifth person, a woman, was also arrested but she was released without charge.

The lawyer noted that her clients were charged under the Public Order Act and accused of failing to disperse from a public meeting.

- Compiled from CMC



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# Battlefield Talk Comes Early To The Battleground State



U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries speaking at The Ben hotel in West Palm Beach on Feb. 20, 2023. (DAPHNE TAYLOR/FLORIDA COURIER image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL  
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Battlefield talk came early to the battleground of Florida on February 20th, with US Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, the minority leader in the US House of Representatives, throwing down the gauntlet to Ron DeSantis, the state's Republican governor.

Jeffries was guest speaker at the 'Forward Together' function held at The Ben hotel in West Palm Beach to honor stalwarts in Congressional District 20's African American community.

Although he did not name DeSantis, Jeffries accused the Republican party in Florida of trying to erase black history in state schools. "There are some folks who want to erase black history, act like it doesn't exist. But let's be clear, black history is American history," Jeffries said to thunderous applause.

In a veiled jab at DeSantis, he added: "There are a lot of forces who want to turn back the clock including here in Florida."

Jeffries was in West Palm Beach at the invitation of Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, who represents District 20, which encompasses South Florida communities with large Caribbean communities.

His passionate speech, which lasted 20 minutes, was punctuated with criticism of the "dysfunction and extremism" of Republicans in Washington, which he blamed for the insurrection in the American capital by supporters of former President Donald Trump on January 6, 2021.

It was the latest attack against DeSantis' blocking the teaching of Advanced Placement African American studies in Florida schools.

DeSantis is seen by many pundits as a potential frontrunner for the Republican party's nomination for president in 2024. While he won a second term as governor by 15 points last year, his reconfiguration of districts to suit Republican candidates and clashes with the Disney

corporation, have made him unpopular with Democrats.

In her remarks, McCormick said Democrats will not let one person take away their freedoms.

"We're ready today. We're ready tomorrow. And we're ready in 2024," she said.

In an interview with Reverend Al Sharpton on his MSNBC program,

PoliticsNation, Cherfilus-McCormick, whose parents are Haitian, took DeSantis to task.

"He attacks the educational system, African American AP studies so people wouldn't understand why we even develop these programs. It really is rooted in our history of inequalities," she said. "These inequalities still persist today. We're still seeing

inequality, unequal numbers of participation in certain job fields. We're still seeing minority students who are going to state colleges and actually being accepted not equal to our counterparts. And we're still feeling the effects even when it comes to pay. And we have to address our past."

"And that's what he's trying

to attack. Because once we can erode those standards and that information, it allows him to pass, and more people to live in their bigoted extremist extremism like he has been doing," she added.

Calls to DeSantis' office for a comment were unsuccessful.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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## Dominican “Ketchup Boat Guy” Found



Elvis Francois has been dubbed “Ketchup Boat Guy” after he survived on Heinz ketchup garlic seasoning and a bottle of Maggi after he became stranded at sea. (Loop News image)

US condiment giant Heinz has located Elvis Francois, the

Dominican sailor who survived 24 days at sea eating ketchup, garlic and Maggi powder. “Elvis has been found!” Heinz said on Instagram. “We received thousands of likes, shares, and messages of kindness in our search to find Elvis Francois. It was an incredible group effort across six continents that led to the hundreds of articles and leads and our eventual contact with Elvis.”

Local media EmoNews found Francois last week in the small community of Anse De Mai in

the north of Dominica.

In the interview, Francois recalled how he became stranded at sea. He was on a yacht doing repairs off the island of Saint Martin when he went adrift in December 2022.

“That happened so rapidly. The boat had some issues so that took time to repair too.”

That is how he ended up being out at sea and spent 24 days. Without much to make it,

Francois said he had a bottle of ketchup, garlic seasoning and a bottle of Maggi.

Francois said he tried eating some seaweed...he tried seawater but it was too strong.

On January 15, 2023, he was picked up by the Colombian Navy after a helicopter saw him. Francois said since the ordeal he lost all he had and has to start all over again, and currently does not

have a phone.

Heinz had been searching for Francois, whom it dubbed “Ketchup Boat Guy,” for two weeks. The company wants to buy Francois, 47, a new boat to replace the one he lost when he was rescued off the Colombian coast last month.

- Rewritten from Loop News



## Will Jean-Ann Panton Get Bail Next Month?

Lawyers representing Jean-Ann Panton, the woman accused of swindling billions of dollars from the accounts of at least 40 Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL) clients, including Jamaican Olympian Usain Bolt, must return to court on April 19 to seek a new application for bail.

Panton's team failed to have the court grant her bail on Friday, Feb. 24th, despite presenting Justice Lorna Shelly Williams with a list of illnesses they said have afflicted their client. A previous bail application was made on February 17 when Panton first appeared in court to answer to three counts of larceny as a servant, five counts of forgery, five counts of uttering forged documents, three counts of engaging in transaction involving criminal property, and three counts of breaching the Cybercrimes Act.

However, the judge, at that time, denied bail, citing a lack of adequate documents to support the application.

Her attorney Tamika Harris says a lock-up is not a suitable



Former Stocks and Securities Limited Wealth Advisor Jean-Ann Panton is being taken to a police vehicle by this police sergeant on Friday after she appeared in court and was denied bail in a multi-billion-dollar fraud case. (Photo: Jason Cross/Jamaica Observer)

place to facilitate her client's full recovery from surgery and the numerous ailments. However, at the end of Harris's appeal, Justice Williams told her that nothing she presented indicated that her client could not remain in custody.

Justice Williams then set June 15 as the next plea and case management date.

- Rewritten from the Jamaica Observer



## Trinidadians Detained As ISIS Suspects In Syria

Over 90 nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, including at least 56 children, are unlawfully detained in life-threatening conditions as Islamic State, (ISIS), suspects and family members in northeast Syria, Human Rights Watch says.

The group accused the Trinidad and Tobago government of taking almost no action to help them return and urged the Dr Keith Rowley-led administration to bring home its nationals for rehabilitation, reintegration, and prosecutions of adults as appropriate.

“Trinidad and Tobago is turning its back on its nationals unlawfully held in horrific conditions in northeast Syria,” said Letta Tayler, associate crisis and conflict director at Human Rights Watch. “The government should bring home its citizens, help those who are victims of ISIS rebuild their lives, and fairly prosecute any adults linked to serious crimes.”

Human Rights Watch said in its report, ‘Trinidad and Tobago: Bring Home Nationals from Northeast Syria,’ that conditions in the camps and prisons holding



A Trinidadian boy, then 16, looks out a window in the Houry detention center in northeast Syria on June 18, 2019. He was one of eight family members brought to Syria by his stepfather in 2014. (© 2019 Sam Tarling)

Trinidadians and other ISIS-linked suspects and family members are increasingly dire.

The report indicated that approximately 90 to 100 Trinidad and Tobago nationals are detained in northeast Syria by US-backed, Kurdish-led regional forces, according to family members and advocates. They include an estimated 21 women, at least one

of them a grandmother, and at least 56 children in Roj and al-Hol, two locked camps for families with alleged ISIS links.

Forty-four of the children in the camps are age 12 or younger and 15 are under age 6, family members said. At least 33 children were born in Syria including one child, born in al-Hol, who is only 3. In addition, at least 13 Trinidadian males, including at least one teenage boy, are held in other detention centers. At least six of the older boys and men – the teenager, 17-, and five-men ages 18 to 20 – were taken to Syria by family members when they were children.

At least 36 countries have repatriated some or many of their nationals from northeast Syria. Repatriations have increased since October 2022 with at least 10 countries, including Barbados and the United States, bringing back some or many of their nationals.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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## Trinidadians Detained As ISIS Suspects In Syria

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Many repatriated children are successfully reintegrating in their home countries, Human Rights Watch research has found.

Yet, the NGO said, authorities in Trinidad and Tobago have not taken steps to bring home their nationals detained in northeast Syria for investigation and, if warranted, prosecution, citing security concerns.

"It is only known to have allowed the returns of eight nationals – a woman with two children, another woman and two teenage girls, and two young boys – and none since 2019. Most made it out of Syria without the government's help.

"Human Rights Watch wrote to the minister of national security on December 21, 2022, requesting details on Trinidad and Tobago's policies and practices regarding the repatriation of its nationals from northeast Syria, but despite repeated requests, had not received the requested information as of February 15, 2023.

"On February 15, 2023, Attorney General Reginald

Armour wrote to Human Rights Watch that his office 'has been working assiduously with all stakeholders', including other government ministries, on a policy framework for repatriations, but gave no timeline. A separate February 15, 2023 communication from the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM affairs also indicated that it was 'actively engaged' on the issue," the organization said.

HRW also called on the government of the twin-island republic to urgently ensure that all its nationals detained in northeast Syria and Iraq can come home, giving priority to children and their mothers, and to particularly vulnerable detainees.

Jo Becker, children's rights advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, said most of the Trinidadians detained in northeast Syria are children who never chose to live under ISIS.

"These children should have the chance to go home, go to school, and enjoy their childhood instead of suffering because of their parents' decisions," Becker said.

Human Rights Watch interviewed six Trinidadians held in the camps and prisons in 2022 and 2019, and seven family members, an attorney, and three advocates representing the detainees from December to February 2023.

It also reviewed court documents related to cases filed by the families seeking to compel the government to bring home their loved ones. The names of those detained are withheld to protect their privacy.

All six Trinidadians interviewed in locked camps and other detention centres in northeast Syria said that, more than anything, they wanted to go home.

"My father lied to me – he told me that we were going to Disneyland," said a detained 17-year-old Trinidadian boy taken by his father to Syria in 2014. "It's not my fault, it's my father's fault. I wish I never came here in Syria. I just want to come back home, you know."

A 19-year-old Trinidadian youth said: "My dad told me I was

going to go to a hotel in Egypt and swim in a pool. I was 11 years old. I only knew the names of countries like Trinidad and America." He was among about 30 foreign youths – older teens and young men – detained 23 hours a day in a cell in Alaya prison that was just big enough to fit all their mattresses on the floor. The youths had only one toilet and shower and the stench permeated the cell, he said.

Three Trinidadians who came to Syria as adults said they wrongly thought they were going to a Muslim utopia, only to learn once they arrived that ISIS would not let them leave.

"This is a nightmare I cannot wake up from," said a detained Trinidadian woman, adding that she was willing to serve prison time in Trinidad if she and her family were allowed home. "As Muslims we wanted to experience the Islamic State like Christians want to visit Jerusalem," said the woman, one of nine members of the same family detained in northeast Syria. "It was so easy to get to Syria.... But then we found

there was no way out."

Most of the Trinidadians were rounded up in late 2018 or early 2019 by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) as they toppled the last remnant of ISIS's self-declared "caliphate" in northeast Syria. They are among nearly 42,000 other foreigners from about 60 countries and more than 23,000 Syrians held as ISIS suspects and family members in northeast Syria.

In addition, four women from Trinidad and Tobago are imprisoned in Iraq with their seven children, family members said. The women were convicted of ISIS links in neighboring Iraq, where Human Rights Watch has found serious, widespread flaws in prosecutions of terrorism suspects, including of foreign women. The human rights organization said one of the detained foreigners has been able to challenge the necessity and legality of their detention, making their detention arbitrary and unlawful.



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## NEWS



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# Descendants Of Plantation Owners Apologize For Family's Role In Slavery

Surviving relatives of a family in the United Kingdom who in the 18th and 19th centuries jointly owned approximately 1 200 slaves on six plantations in three different parishes in Grenada have apologized for the actions of their forefathers.

"To the people of Grenada, we the undersigned write to apologize for the actions of our ancestors in holding your ancestors in slavery," said the opening paragraph of a letter presented to Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell during a ceremony at the Grenada Trade Centre.

Signed by seven members of the Trevelyan family, including well-known BBC correspondent Laura Trevelyan, the letter describes slavery as a crime that was and continues to be a crime against humanity.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell accepts the apology letter from members of the Trevelyan family.

"It's damaging effects continue to this present day. We repudiate our ancestor's involvement in it, we apologize to the surviving descendants of the enslaved on those estates for the continuing impact on their daily lives, their health, and their



Laura Trevelyan, (left), explores a former slave plantation on Grenada during her visit in 2022. (BBC Photo)

well-being," the correspondence stated.

The complete letter which was then handed over to Prime Minister Mitchell was in turn presented to members of the local Reparations Committee. It is expected to be handed over to the regional committee.

The Feb. 27th ceremony, which was attended by Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Committee Professor Hilary Beckles, Vice Chair of the Grenada National Reparations Committee Dr. Nicole Dowe, Cabinet ministers, heads of regional reparations committees and students, was to launch a

fund in which Laura Trevelyan has personally committed to giving £100 000 (US\$ 120,596) to the local reparations committee.

"I came up with that figure because at this moment in time that is what I can afford to give. I am 54 years old and when I turn 55 in August that is the moment when I can actually give this money because I will come into a pension from the BBC, and so I am taking a portion of the pension as a cash payment to give to the people of Grenada," she said when a student asked her how she had arrived at the donation figure.

"But I hope in years to come... I will be in a position to give more money and I hope that it works and achieves what all of us here want it to achieve."

Trevelyan also pointed out that the 2020 George Floyd situation in the US, where she resides, played a role in her accepting that her family contributed to the enslavement of Africans and the devastating effects it has had on African descendants.

She learned in 2013 that her family had owned slaves on the island and was battling with the guilt of that reality.

Arley Gill, chairman of the local reparative committee, described the day's event as a

day of remembrance.

"It's a day to remember our ancestors and their descendants and it is finally a day of recognition of the harms of slavery and a moment of global reckoning that is long overdue," he said in his welcome remarks.

"This apology and financial commitment from Laura and the Trevelyan family should serve as a clarion call to other families, institutions, and other governments in Europe to acknowledge wrongs, apologize and commit to repairing the harms done by their ancestors."

- Edited from CMC.



## PNP Remembers Delano Franklyn As A "Comrade & Statesman"



Delano Franklyn, a Jamaican Senator and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with special responsibility for the Jamaican Diaspora and Overseas Communities, passed away on February 9th in Kingston at age 63. (JIS Image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Jamaica's People's National Party, (PNP), president and opposition leader, Mark Golding is remembering former minister Delano Franklyn, as "a comrade and statesman."

Franklyn, who in October 2002 he was appointed a Senator and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with special responsibility for the Jamaican Diaspora and Overseas Communities, died on February 9th in Kingston at age 63. He succumbed to leukemia, which he had been diagnosed with last August.

An attorney by profession, Franklyn was a senior member of the PNP. He was senator in 2002 when prime minister PJ Patterson appointed him minister of state in Jamaica's ministry of foreign affairs and foreign trade.

He also served as special advisor to Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's first female prime minister, who succeeded Patterson in 2007.

As minister of state, Franklyn established several programs including the Jamaica Diaspora Conference and the Jamaica Diaspora Foundation.

"His contribution to our Party, country and as an author will be forever remembered.

Sincere condolences to his wife Tricia, friends and legal fraternity," said PNP president and opposition leader, Mark Golding.

Patterson also paid tribute to Franklyn, saying: "I have lost one of my closest and youngest colleagues in the struggle to lead and uplift the people of Jamaica."

A graduate of the University of the West Indies (Mona), Franklyn was drawn to the socialist policies of Michael Manley, when he was prime minister of Jamaica from 1972-80. He was an unapologetic supporter of Manley's programs such as the National Youth Service, which Patterson assigned him to revive 20 years ago.

A student of Manley's policies, in 2009 Franklyn released the book, 'Michael Manley: The Politics of Equality,' a collection of Manley's speeches in parliament from 1969 to 1991.

That year, 'Sprinting into History - Jamaica and the 2008 Olympic Games,' another Franklyn book, was also released. His thoughts on contributions of the Jamaican abroad were expressed in 'The Jamaican Diaspora: Building and Operational Framework,' released in 2010.



## SPRING HEALTH



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## Caribbean American Congresswoman Wants Shirley Chisholm's Statue In US Capitol

Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman, Yvette D. Clarke, the first vice-chair of the United States Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and Brooklyn, New York Republican Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, have introduced bipartisan legislation in the US House of Representatives directing the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of late US Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm for placement in the US Capitol building in Washington.

"We need to show our children's generation that the progress of today did not appear by accident. It took passion and dedication. It took people who were unbought and unbossed," said Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants.

Malliotakis noted that Chisholm was "a Brooklyn trailblazer and first African American woman elected to Congress, who shattered glass ceilings and inspired generations of women to use their voices to create change in our political system."

"A statue of her in the US Capitol building would be a



The late Shirley Chisholm.

fitting way to honor her legacy and serve as a reminder for future leaders to be persistent and demand a seat at the table to benefit the communities they represent," she said.

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, the daughter of Barbadian and Guyanese immigrants, was the first African American woman elected to Congress. She was a founding member of the CBC and the first African American to make a serious bid for the Presidency of the United States of America.

She was also noted for her opposition to the US involvement in the Vietnam War, her support of full-employment programs, and her efforts on behalf of Black

colleges, compulsory education, and minimum wage, the CBC Foundation said.

Chisholm, who was born in New York City, on November 30, 1924, grew up in Barbados and in Brooklyn. In 1964, she ran for and was elected to the New York State Legislature, where she served for four years.

Then, in 1968, she became the first Black woman elected to Congress, representing New York's then 12th District.

Chisholm served the United States House of Representatives for seven terms, from 1968-1983 (91st-97th Congresses). In 1972, Chisholm was also the first Black woman to run for President of the United States. After leaving Congress, she was named to the Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she taught politics and women's studies, while remaining an advocate for education.

In both 1984 and 1988, the foundation said Chisholm worked on the presidential campaigns of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. In 1987, she retired from teaching and moved to Florida. Chisholm died on January 1, 2005.

Chisholm was also the author of two autobiographical works entitled "Unbought and Unbossed" (1970) and "The Good Fight" (1973)



## FPL Supports Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School

Recently, a big reveal took place at Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in Riviera Beach, FL as they celebrated a \$50,000 Classroom Makeover, thanks to a generous grant from Florida Power & Light Company, (FPL), and its charitable arm, the NextEra Energy Foundation.

FPL has been recognized by the School District of Palm Beach County and the Florida Commissioner of Education for its critical role in supporting our schools and students.

The school was able to purchase new state of the art 3-D glasses, chairs, cubbies and much more to enhance stem learning. Dozens of FPL employees volunteered at the ceremony with



Recipients of the FPL Makeover Grant celebrate. (Contributed image)

a special hands-on activity, as each class had the chance to build their own electric generator.

FPL's Classroom Makeover grants help give diverse students transformational learning

opportunities... these grants are open to all grade levels at public, private and charter schools.

Following the classroom unveiling, FPL employees held a generator build competition for the school's 3rd – 5th grade students, allowing them firsthand experience in STEM with onsite mentoring and coaching.

FPL is committed to helping make our communities even better places to live, work and raise a family – and a major part of that is investing in education.



## City Of Miramar Donates Vehicles To The Royal Bahamian Police Force

Miramar Mayor, Jamaican American Wayne M. Messam, recently handed over four vehicles on behalf of the City of Miramar City Commission, to the Royal Bahamas Police Force, (RBPF).

Bahamian Commissioner of Police, Clayton Fernander, accepted the donations at City Hall Plaza at 2400 Civic Center Place.

"We believe in strong partnerships, especially with our Bahamian neighbors and this donation is a testimony to how strong it is," stated Mayor Messam. "We know the vehicles will go a far way in supporting

the Royal Bahamas Police Force, (RBPF), and provide good support to the communities they protect and serve."

The Royal Bahamas Police Force is headed by a Commissioner of Police and is supported in his/her role by one Deputy Commissioner, and eight Assistant Commissioners. The Commissioner of Police has command, direction and control of the Force and is the ex-officio, Provost Marshall. The headquarters of the police force is located in Nassau, New Providence.



## Battlefield Talk Comes Early To The Battleground State

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

DeSantis' hardline stance against Disney and the AP studies has won him even more admirers among conservatives. But a poll in early February by HIT Strategies BlackTrack showed 65 per cent of blacks disapproved of his handling of that situation.

In January, DeSantis, speaking at an event in Jacksonville, defended his stance. He said banning the AP course would prevent students from developing political agendas.

Jeffries, who represents

the 8th District in New York, said American history has been blighted by spurts of "backlash." He noted that this was evident during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, during the Civil Rights movement and before and after the historic election of Barack Obama as America's first black president.

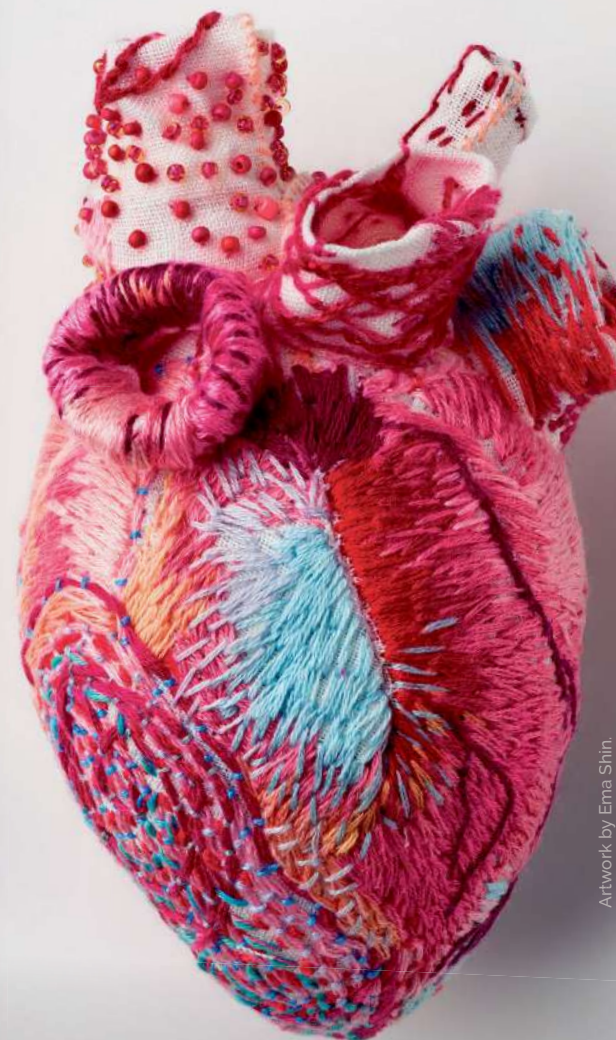
Pointing to the achievements of African American inventors and Civil Rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King and John Lewis, he stressed the importance of keeping their legacy alive.



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## FEATURE



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# Jamaican Born Mayor Makes History In Highland Park New Jersey

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

“It feels good to have accomplished this feat. Not just to be the first African American or the first black person to fill these shoes, but also to know that you have a town that is supportive,” remarked Elsie Foster, the newly elected Mayor of Highland Park, New Jersey.

Making history in this Middlesex County town, Foster was elected by the Borough Council on January 24, 2023, with the full support of the population of approximately 60 percent whites, with the majority comprising a large diverse Jewish community. There are also small pockets of Asian and African American communities with a Caribbean cohort of less than 1 percent.

## ADVOCATE

An active voice on the Borough Council for more than 20 years, Foster has always been a strong advocate for the community’s growth and success and has never been shy about confronting its leaders to stand up for its residents.

But how did this Jamaican girl from the parish of Trelawny get to this position? As a teenager, Foster and her family migrated to Newark, New Jersey during the 1970s.

“It was the time when guns were coming in, and gangs were coming into private neighborhoods, and they were destroying and tearing. Crime and violence were rampant; political violence was the order of the day. It created chaos and havoc in various communities and one of

them was my community,” Mayor Foster told Caribbean Today.

But her first impression of America was certainly not a rosy one. It was just after the race riots that scarred the US beginning in the late 60s. So, Foster came into a country where racism and division was rife.

“At that time, coming into the US we all thought that the America we were going into was the one we saw on ‘Father Knows Best,’ ‘My Three Sons,’ all those shows that told us how wonderful and great America is... And then we came here and realized this is not the America we heard so much about. That was a shocker,” Foster exclaimed.

To make matters worse, she landed in America in the middle of a national election, the 1976 Presidential election. In her bones, Foster was preparing for another violent period - that’s what she knew, that’s what she left in Jamaica. Traumatized, she hid in the attic on the fateful election night, reappearing the following morning.

“I sat in my parents living room and I looked out at the world and saw that the world was calm. There was no chaos, and the election went, and nobody got killed. And as you turn the TV, you saw Jimmy Carter doing his acceptance speech, and everybody was happy. It had a profound effect on me, and it made me fall in love with the idea of America,” reminisced an emotional Foster.

She knew then she wanted to be part of the democracy she saw, part of the system that created an environment for people to vote without recrimination or violence. Foster made that pledge to herself



The first Black and Caribbean American Mayor of Highland Park, New Jersey is Jamaican immigrant Elsie Foster. (Contributed image)

that morning not knowing that some 40-plus years later it would propel her to where she is today.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Foster credits her Jamaican upbringing and her parents’ natural inclination for giving back and building community spirit. She explained that their home in Jamaica was considered a refuge, with her parents always taking in the needy. Their lives in Newark, New Jersey was much the same. Taking in a homeless family every Thanksgiving, feeding and clothing them, was a tradition in the household. And of course, lending a hand and a place to stay for new arrivals from Jamaica was a given.

“And that planted a seed within me,” she said. “So, when I went off to college, I joined the Big Brother Big Sister movement and started mentoring and it just continued. And whenever I saw injustice or inequity, I just knew it was wrong and had to speak

against it. I’ve always been that person.”

Fast forward several years and Foster was ready to build a family of her own. Looking around for a community she could call her own, she came upon Highland Park, New Jersey, a town where people are friendly, she noted. A small community with a walking downtown area and excellent schools. She quickly settled in, and when her son, Brandon, started school she gladly joined in as a parent helper, eventually taking on a role in the Parent Teacher Organisation, (PTO).

An active and ‘cool’ parent, Foster soon became a favorite amongst the students. The kids were always talking about all the things Brandon’s Mom was doing. Her involvement, advocacy, and notoriety soon became known to the other parents who wanted to know “who is Brandon’s mom?”

They surely found out, and approached her to be their voice to the town Council against an aggressive developer. The developer had plans to create a gated community that would be fenced off in addition to erecting fences around disadvantaged communities.

And although residents were in an uproar about it, they had not approached the mayor at the time. Foster called the major several times demanding a position on the issue. She got no response. The mayor would eventually meet with her, taking the issue on board. Seeing her leadership qualities, that mayor and other city officials would convince Foster to join the Planning Board. In 2000 she was approached by the Council’s Democratic Committee, and she

hasn’t looked back since then.

Today, as the town’s first Black and Caribbean American Mayor, her focus is on the town’s safety, affordability and downtown development. An immediate concern is replacing the town’s only supermarket that has served the more than 15,000 residents for years.

Revaluing Highland Park’s housing stock is also on the Foster’s priority list. But she also wears many hats. Taking on whatever role is necessary, she is Council Chair for the Department of Public Safety, including the Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Police Department, Office of Emergency Management, and Community Response Team.

So how does she stay balanced?

“I keep God at the forefront, I ask him for advice before I make decisions, because I want to make decisions that are not just good for me, but for the entire town... You have to make tough decisions and you have to make unpopular decisions, but you must make them... I have a lot to contribute and a lot of experience and skills to move it forward,” added Mayor Foster.



# Jamaican Centenarian In North Carolina Hailed

BY DERRICK SCOTT

Mrs. Sybil Leslie, the educator, author and “cultural ambassador of Jamaica,” this past February 9th, became one of the latest to enter the exclusive rank of centenarian as family and friends and Jamaica’s Governor General Sir Patrick Allen “most heartily” helped her mark the milestone.

“Celebrating a century is indeed a very special occasion,” Sir Patrick told the Charlotte, North Carolina, resident in a letter hailing her momentous achievement. “I trust you will be surrounded by loved ones who will help make it a truly wonderful time for you as you embrace life and the many blessings you have enjoyed along the way.”

A special birthday cocktail hour was held in Charlotte honoring the Bethel Town, Westmoreland, native, who was born in 1923 to Eva and Adolphus Seaton. The celebration was hallmarked by recollections from her daughters, international finance and small business consultant, Dr. Winsome Leslie; and gynecologist Dr. Heather Leslie-Brown.

A retired teacher, Sybil Leslie is a historian, storyteller and published author, whose late husband Astley was a labor



Mrs. Sybil Leslie, the Jamaican-born centenarian, acknowledged the very warm wishes at a special birthday cocktail hour held in Charlotte. February 9, 2023. (Contributed image)

relations expert and represented Jamaica at the International Labour Organization.

Her work has earned her national honors from the Government of Jamaica and recognition from Jamaica diaspora organizations, including those in Atlanta. Educated at Bethlehem Teachers College and with an M.A. in Educational Administration the from University the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica, she also holds and an M. Phil in History from UWI Cave Hill (Barbados).

She taught at different levels of the Jamaican education system, including Shortwood Teachers College, where she was head of

the Social Studies Department, and at UWI Cave Hill. Sybil has published previous works, among them a series of four Social Studies textbooks for schools in Jamaica.

Mrs. Leslie was also presented with a plaque from the Jamaica Atlanta Association at her birthday celebration, and was regaled with a surprise appearance and performance by The Sugar Canes singing group she formed 20 years ago.

Jamaica’s Consul-General in Miami, Oliver Mair, issued a Proclamation recognizing Mrs. Leslie, not only for her special birthday, but also for how she has “greatly impacted many as a dedicated teacher, enhancing their lives richly through education while instilling discipline and self-confidence.”

Consul General Mair, declaring in the Proclamation how proud he was to recognize those who render significant contributions for the enhancement of all people, said he wanted to “honor, commend, and thank Mrs. Sybil Leslie for her long-standing commitment and service.”

In her tribute, Dr. Winsome Leslie told her mother: “You have lived a life with purpose, focus, and you have been ‘all-in’ ... fully committed.” She elaborated,

noting how Sybil was “all-in” as daughter and sister; as student; as scholar and academic, publishing several books, including her latest, Uncle Zekie Seh; as wife and her husband Astley’s “second brain and confidant”; and as mother – a role model to her two daughters, showing the critical importance of having a career as a woman, but also equally important, the commitment to family.

In her reply, the grateful, newly minted centenarian acknowledged the very warm wishes that “came from the heart.” She recalled her parents for the way she was raised, always being polite and helpful, and considerate of others. She said her leadership qualities had been spotted early on, from kindergarten, when she was put in charge of the other children during recess. This continued through school and Bethlehem Teachers College.

While conceding she had no magic formula for her longevity, she cited two things as having guided her throughout her life – patience and perseverance in all circumstances, even difficulties, and excellence – always doing a task well.



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# Immigrants Now Have To Deal With Prejudice From An App

By Felicia J. Persaud

Just when you think there's nothing that can't shock you anymore, along comes a headline that not just stops you in your tracks but sends your anger and anxiety levels ticking up fast.

According to a recent report in the UK Guardian, not only do black immigrants have to put up with bias from the right wing in the real world, but now we are forced to deal with artificial intelligences bias.

Here's is the latest shocker in the immigration asylum drama and why it's so relevant to this column. The US government's new mobile app for migrants to apply for asylum at the US-Mexico border, called CBP One, is reportedly blocking many Black immigrants, especially from Haiti and Africa, from being able to file their claims because of facial recognition bias in the technology.

Yes, you read that right. Now you understand why my anger and anxiety levels were pushing up past 10.

The US government announced in early January that the new CBP One mobile app would be the only way migrants arriving at the border can apply for asylum and exemption from Title 42 restrictions. At the time, they said it would "reduce



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

wait times and help ensure safe, orderly and streamlined processing."

But according to advocates and the UK Guardian report, CBP One, is failing to register many people with darker skin tones, effectively barring them from their right to request entry into the US. The non-profits call it an apparent algorithm bias in the technology that the app relies on. They say the algorithm is sharply reducing the number of Black asylum seekers who can fill out their applications.

Emmanuella Camille, a staff attorney with the Haitian Bridge Alliance, a non-profit that aids Haitian and African asylum seekers, said the CBP One app has helped "lighter-skin toned people from other nations" obtain their asylum appointments "but not Haitians" and other Black applicants.

In the Mexican city of Tijuana, at the opposite end the US-Mexico border, near San Diego, another large community of Haitian asylum seekers is waiting and experiencing the same problems with the app, according to non-profits that are assisting them, as are people from African countries and other Black migrants trying to enter.

"The facial recognition is not picking up [images] if people have darker skin tones," Erika Pinheiro, executive director at Al Otro Lado, a binational legal and humanitarian aid organization, was quoted as saying. He said with the app unable to map the features of many darker-skinned asylum seekers, they cannot

upload their photos in order to receive an asylum appointment with the US immigration authorities.

"The Haitians at the workshop were getting error after error message on the app," she said. "We've also seen it affect Venezuelans who are darker skinned."

"The app is working for some migrants but blocking

others, especially those who are most vulnerable," Felicia Rangel-Samponaro, co-director of the non-profit Sidewalk School, which provides educational programs for asylum seekers in the Mexican cities of Reynosa and Matamoros, near the eastern end of the Texas border, where many Haitians are living in makeshift camps, told the paper.

"There are about 4,000 Black asylum seekers waiting in Reynosa and at least another 1,000 Haitians in Matamoros. Hardly anyone is getting an asylum appointment. Neither population is being represented as it should. I've yet to speak with a white asylum seeker who has had the same issue. And we

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## Men's Coping Ability

How do men cope with the vagaries and irregularities of women? Oh sure, now you're going to say that women are not irregular or not difficult to deal with? History has documented that women are capricious, coquettish, indecisive, coy, cunning, and impossible to satisfy.

Every man is running around asking other men: "What must I do? How must I deal with her? How must I cope?"

But all men were not created equal, so different men have different coping mechanisms. Some cope by being physically abusive, but domestic violence never solves anything, it only adds fuel to the fire.

Many men expressed that the violence that they meted out was justified. "I know that I shouldn't hit her, but she drove me to it, I just couldn't take the disrespect anymore."

It's a sad way to cope. That being said though, there are



TONY ROBINSON

some women who actually drive men to violence, as they provoke and goad the man until he snaps.

There is no excuse for that, but some women do drive men over the edge.

That's why some men, when hauled before the courts will plead: "Guilty with explanation

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



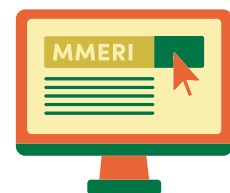
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## Open Letter To Holland's King Willem-Alexander

*King Willem-Alexander, the King of Holland and his family, recently toured most of the Dutch Caribbean territories that remain a part of the Netherlands. His visit was met by protest in some quarters, including from the One St. Martin Association, or ONE SXM. The following is their open letter to the King.*

Your Majesty:

We, members of the One St. Martin Association, commonly referred to as One SXM, feel duty bound to address you, respectfully, on the matter of your pending visit to our homeland, part of which is still

colonized by your kingdom. The thematic nature of your visit as published in various media outlets to include the history of Slavery is very interesting during the month of Black History Celebration. We write you as St. Martiners, as Caribbean people, as Africans in the Diaspora who do not see themselves as subjects of any other humans. We employ you to recognize us as such as you engage with our people. We note with deep regret that from your position of power and privilege, you have chosen to parade these islands during the month of Black History celebrations, showing off the people to your daughter

and heiress to your throne, and patronizing their culture. More dehumanizing is the expectation that our people should bow to you and your family, as a way to give legitimacy to an anachronistic and fading political system.

As the head of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, you hide behind political unaccountability, refusing to apologize for your family's involvement in Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Furthermore, the kingdom you head has refused at every opportunity to denounce racism and xenophobia at several United Nations fora.

The people and territory of

St. Martin were acquired as a part of your colonial project to be a part of the kingdom, and we do not embrace you as the king of our people. We expect that you can relate to this position since your country fought an 80-year war to gain its independence from Spain as your people refused to be subjugated by the Spanish.

We believe that the only way for St. Martin to become a true "equal partner" with your kingdom is for our island to become an independent, sovereign state. We reiterate that we are not subjects of any monarch, and we definitely do not want our children to bow

before anyone's children. As a first step in repairing the relationship between the Kingdom of the Netherlands as the colonizer and St. Martin people as the colonized, we demand that you issue a sincere apology for the Dutch Kingdom's involvement in Slavery, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and continuing colonialism. This month of Black History celebrations and your presence on our island present the opportune time to do this.

One SXM.



## Immigrants Now Have To Deal With Prejudice From An App

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

help everybody in both cities," she added.

Yet migrants are "being told by CBP that the only way they can cross the border is by using this app."

For now, Rangel-Samponaro said advocates were experimenting with ways to get the technology to work for darker-skinned asylum seekers. One fix they've come up with is installing bright construction

lights at the shelter in Reynosa, which Haitians and others shine on their faces as they take the photo to upload to the app.

"So far it seems to be working, so the adults can get past that," she said. "But it's still not working for children under the age of six."

Pinheiro points to studies showing that kind of technology tends to do a poor job of identifying people of certain races and ethnicities.

A study from Stanford and

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published in 2018 found that facial recognition programs perform best on light-skinned men — with an error rate of less than 1 percent. Facial recognition systems performed worst on dark-skinned women, getting it wrong more than a third of the time.

"There are really high error rates with certain races, especially Black and Asian applicants," Pinheiro said. "So we would expect that people

who are not white are going to have a harder time with the facial recognition feature."

So far, CBP has only said it is aware of some of its technical challenges and will "continue to enhance the mobile application as additional improvement opportunities arise."

How many battles do we have to fight all because of our rich melanin? If your anxiety

level is up too after reading this, I understand. Welcome to the day in the life of a Black immigrant.

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



## Men's Coping Ability

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

your honor. She drove me to it."

How does a man cope when his woman steps out with another man then comes home and tells him what she did? I have observed some men's wives and could understand why the men had to do what they had to do. I said understand, not condone.

"Look how Mr. Jones slap up his wife, I would never believe it if I never saw it. "She drove him to it."

Another way of coping is absence. This is a path that some men take when dealing with a woman who is, let's say, challenging. These men are hardly home, and will literally live on the streets, refusing to be in the same space with the shrewish woman.

Many soldiers in the US opt to sign up for duty repeatedly rather than stay home. In their minds, the horror and dangers of war are more appealing than staying home with their wives.

Some men will actually change their personalities in order to cope with their women. "I tried to be the nice guy, catering to her needs, always decent and respectful, but she didn't appreciate it and lost respect for me."

So, he changed his personality. "No more Mr. Nice Guy. I now talk to her rough, tell her bad words, and she calms down." Can men really change their personalities?

Some men just shut down. After years of indifference and verbal abuse, they simply turn off all their sensors and

receptors. It may not be ideal, but it's their way of coping with a constant deluge, torrent, avalanche, tsunami of misery and mayhem that some women heap on them.

They virtually go into a semi-coma and shut out the conflict. It's so prevalent that numerous scientific studies have been done about it. But it's really sad that once vibrant men have to use so many coping mechanisms just to deal with women.

In contrast, there are men who let it all out and hold nothing back when it comes to griping about their women. Their sentences are always prefaced by the two words: my wife. "My wife is something else, you know what she did to me yesterday?" "My wife really stresses me out, always on my case." "My wife never stops telling me what to do, like a slave master."

It's amazing how many men opened up regarding the challenges that they experience with their women and how they cope. Some were driven to drink, others to smoke. Some just went silent, while there were a few who just got bad.

"She didn't appreciate it when I was a good man, so I just got bad."

What a rocky road, but some men will do almost anything in order to cope.

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



## Caribbean History Month

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## Jamaican Dancehall Artist Shot And Killed

Jamaican dancehall artist Al'Qual was shot and killed by an unknown assailant at the intersection of Sandringham and Burlington Avenues in Kingston 10, Jamaica on March 1, 2023.

The artist, whose real name is Amanual Eccleston, was only 25 years old. Reports from the Halfway Tree Police are that about 1:00 a.m., residents heard explosions and summoned them. On arrival of the lawmen, Eccleston was seen lying on the ground with gunshot wounds. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"I can't believe he is gone. Jamaica gone, the place unstable, he had so much potential, I



Jamaican dancehall artist Al'Qual was shot and killed on March 1st. (Dancehallmag.com image)

of his house and he was shot and killed," Vivian Thomas, chief executive officer of Push a Yute Records, told DancehallMag.

No motive has yet been established for the killing.

In 2021, Al'Qual inked a deal with the label, Push a Yute Records. Before that, he carved out a reputation for clashing other DJs and artists, which resulted in him becoming known as more of a clash artiste lyrically. He has cultivated a decent underground following with tracks like Think Smart and Subzero. He recorded a single called Long Time which was released on the Chase Mills Records label in December 2022.

- *Rewritten from Dancehall Mag*



cannot believe this all now, his family members told me that he had just come from an event and then somebody called him out

## New Album Takes A Comprehensive Look At The Career Of Award-Winning Producer & Engineer Bulby York

From learning about recording from the iconic King Tubby to being an engineer for the likes of Sly & Robbie and Winston Riley to working with pop icons like Rihanna and Britney Spears, Collin 'Bulby' York has been a central figure in Jamaican music for more than 30 years. With his latest album Time & Color, Bulby is drawing from his expansive career with a variety of Caribbean and Latin-American flavors and a roster of talent that spans decades.

Released on his birthday, February 24th, Time & Color is a reflection of the range and scope of work he has produced over the years with names ranging from Reggae legends Beres Hammond and Ali Campbell (of UB40) to Panamanian artist El Maleante and new vocalist Stacey Mirander.

"This album is a reflection of my career, in both time and what I call 'color,'" explains Bulby. "It features timeless music with ageless artists like Beres, Ali, Bounty Killer, Tanya Stephens, Admiral Bailey, and Richie Spice." Most people think color is what they see, but I am referring to sound. How music colors what we feel and how we see the world. The kind of music we listen to even colors our identity."

Time & Color features 13 tracks colored with the sounds of Gospel, Reggae, Dancehall, and Latin music. The latest single "Good Time" by Richie Spice is a feel-good bass-heavy roots



Jamaican-entertainer-Collin 'Bulby' York's Time & Color dropped on his birthday, Feb. 24th. (Rohajay Anderson image)

Reggae single that is currently streaming on all platforms. The album also features spiritually uplifting songs from Jahvinci and Stacey Mirander, a smooth lovers rock single from Beres Hammond, and a remake of a pop music classic with Ali Campbell and Bounty Killer.

Previously released singles on the album include dancehall singles "Queen" with Tanya Stephens and Malica, "Ignorant" with Admiral Bailey and Christopher Martin, and "Race to Waste Your Life" with Spragga Benz, and the pop tinged "Want her Love" with Maxi Priest.

Bulby's 30-plus-year journey in music began when he started following his uncle, George "Dusty" Miller of the famous Firehouse Crew band, to King Tubby's studio in the Waterhouse area of Kingston. Bulby learned the art of recording and engineering from the master and even helped Tubby build his state-of-the-art studio, assisting with rewiring and soldering. Bulby eventually created the Fat Eyes label with Lynford 'Fatta' Marshall and produced classic hits like "Stop Live Inna Di Pass" (also known as "Memories") by Beenie Man, "Suspense" by Bounty Killer, "Down By the River" by Morgan Heritage, and "Want You Back" by Singing Melody. He has engineered tracks for No Doubt, Chaka Khan, Cyndi Lauper, Sinead O'Connor, Michael Franti & Spearhead, and Sean Paul. He launched his own label Bulby York Music in 2016.

Time & Color is Bulby's fourth studio album on the Bulby York Music imprint, following Epic & Ting (2016), Master Blaster (2018), and Heart Crafted (2020). Additionally, he has released juggling projects Padang Padang Riddim (2021) and Far East Riddim (2022).

Time & Color was released on all platforms on Friday, February 24th.



## Sean Paul Is Lone Reggae Artist For J. Cole's Dreamville Festival



Sean Paul is lone reggae/dancehall act set for J. Cole's Dreamville 2023. (Instagram image)

Sean Paul is the only dancehall/reggae act set for this year's J. Cole's Dreamville at Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The two-day event will take place April 1-2, with Usher headlining on Saturday, April 1, while artists like Sean Paul, Lil Durk, Ari Lennox, City Girls, Jessie Reyez, Key Glock, and others are set to perform.

Sunday, April 2, features three headliners- Drake and J. Cole and Burna Boy with a slew of artists also filling the lineup, including R&B singer Summer Walker, GloRilla, Wacka Flocka Flame, Mario, J.I.D, Baby Tate, and many others.

- *Rewritten from UrbanIslandz.com*



## Jah Cure's First Single "Everything" From His New Album Undeniable

Jah Cure fans have given his 9th studio album, 'Undeniable,' high marks and verbal praise. The album is streaming well on platforms in Japan, U.K. and Canada.

Released on February 17th, the 11-track disc meets the expectations of fans who have taken to streaming platforms to express their appreciation for the new project. Jah Cure's fans Say, "we give thanks for your album," "Jah Cure never disappoints" and "I'm stuck on 'One More Time.'"

At the time of the album's release, 'Undeniable' ranked #1 on the Japan and United Kingdom Reggae iTunes charts and #2 in Canada, The U.S. and Germany. The GRAMMY-Award nominee and chart-topping artist experienced similar success with the release of his previous album Royal Soldier.

Undeniable is an 11-track project that stays true to Jah Cure's trademark of passionate vocals, romantic overtures, and heartfelt lyrics with cutting-edge sound. "Everything," the lead single from the album, features Ghanian Reggae star Stonebwoy. The soulful collaboration laments a love



Jah Cure is back with "Everything."

gone bad and the deep desire to turn back the hands of time. The accompanying music video, directed by noted director Samo Johnson, made it's Jamaica debut on the countries national station, TVJ. The video ends with the message 'to be continued' suggesting that the story is not over.

Produced by Jah Cure and Swedish producer Hamed "K-One" Pirouzpanah, additional stand-out tracks on the album include "Undeniable" featuring Haitian American songstress Kaylan Arnold, "Think About It" which is Jah Cures personal favorite and "One More Time."





## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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# Photographer Who Shot Marley 'One Love' Peace Concert In Color, Dead At 80

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Howard Moo Young had 20 years of experience as a photographer when he snapped the scene that became his signature - Bob Marley standing between Jamaica's prime minister Michael Manley and his arch-rival Edward Seaga at the 'One Love' Peace Concert on April 22, 1978.

That symbolic gesture of the reggae star holding their arms aloft in unity is one of the most memorable in the history of independent Jamaica. Other photographers caught the sensational moment but Moo Young, who died February 15 in Kingston at age 80, was the only one who shot it in color.

In a 2018 interview with the Jamaica Observer newspaper,

Moo Young said he knew something special would happen when Marley brought the two political rivals on stage.

"After I shot everything, I put the canister in my bobby socks and walked out. I went to Stanley Motta (photo developers in Kingston) the next day and gave it to Phillip Chang to develop and told him, 'Phillip, this is the most important piece of film in my life,'" Moo Young recalled.

He attended the show - organized to quell violence in Jamaica between supporters of Manley and Seaga - to shoot for himself. The One Love Peace Concert showcased the biggest names in reggae, led by Marley, Peter Tosh, Dennis Brown and Jacob Miller and Inner Circle.

Born in Kingston, Moo



Howard Moo Young passed away on Feb. 15, 2023, in Kingston.

Young was the eldest of seven sons in a Chinese-Jamaican family. After leaving high school, he attended School of the Visual Arts in New York, then returned to Jamaica and worked as an art director with leading advertising

agencies.

In the 1980s and 1990s, he and top Jamaican broadcaster Radcliffe Butler operated Moo Young/Butler and Associates, a public relations and advertising agency.

In recent years, Moo Young staged a number of exhibitions of his extensive catalog which included scenes from the One Love Peace Concert. He lectured graphic design production at Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts for 25 years and mentored youth from Spanish Town and the rugged South Side community in Kingston in photography through the Grace and Staff Foundation.

His images have been published in Beautiful Jamaica, Insight Guide Jamaica, The JAMAICAN magazine, Skywritings, Marley Reggae King, Jamaica Observer, as well as in many advertisements, brochures, annual reports, and calendars over the years.

He was also a contributor to the Sunday Gleaner on photography and the arts.



## J C Lodge Returns In Reggae Meets Soul

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

A strong performance at the Pluto & Friends show in Hallandale, South Florida last May whetted J C Lodge's

appetite for more shows in that region. She gets another opportunity on March 18th as one of the acts on the Reggae Meets Soul show at the Coral Springs Center For The Performing Arts.

"I was very pleased with the whole Pluto & Friends event. It was well-organized and promoted. The band and sound were excellent too. And unlike

forward to returning to Florida to please people with my nostalgic songs as well as adding a few of my more recent releases, such as Love Uprising which is currently rising up in both the Florida and NY Reggae charts," she said.

Lodge disclosed that she is also working on a follow-up song. One of them is a duet with Beres Hammond called 'More of You' and 'Live Your Life.'



J C Lodge is coming to Coral Springs this March 18th.

some other performances, I've done, I wasn't restricted to two or three songs," said Lodge. "All of these aspects allowed me to present a performance that the audience could appreciate which ultimately led to my enjoyment."

The London-based singer will take the stage next month with some momentum. Her song, Love Uprising, was number one on the South Florida Reggae Chart in February.

Produced by My MM Productions, the single is from that company's Positive Transfusion compilation album released in 2022.

"I am certainly looking

Born in London, Lodge spent some of her formative years in Jamaica. Her breakthrough song, 'Someone Loves You Honey,' was a big seller in Jamaica and Europe in 1980. She had follow-up hits with a cover of Leo Sayer's 'Love You More Than I Can Say,' 'Make it up With You,' and 'Telephone Love.'

Russell Thompkins Jr. And The New Stylistics, Kashief Lindo, Michael Russell and Yishka are also slated to perform at Reggae Meets Soul.



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## Rat Droppings Stops Caribbean Food Products Company In Their Tracks



Outside of the Miami Trading Company. (Google Image)

Miami Trading Company describes it as a food distributor of “Jamaican, Oriental, British and Caribbean food products” was recently stopped in its tracks and faces a re-inspection from The Florida Department of Agriculture.

Some of those products were recently taken off the market by Inspector Raymond Collada, who dropped ‘Stop Sale Orders’ on 30 9-pound packages of Angel Brand Dried Sorrel, four 50-pound packages of Kam Long Dried Pigeon Peas and one 50-pound

pack of plantains from Guatemala.

The opening violation read: “Observed rodent droppings on top of a pallet of Sorrel tea leaves. Boxes appeared to be wet, some type of liquid marks on several boxes ... observed various food products gnawed by rodents, bags torn, ripped with holes in the bags of food products.”

The rodents reportedly made another appearance later in the inspection, in the violation concerning doors to the outside. Inspector Collada noted both

receiving doors were kept open when deliveries weren’t being received. Also, “the screen used at the bay doors is torn, not [having] a complete seal to protect properly.” The east bay door screen wasn’t of the proper mesh, “nor does it completely seal to protect properly against pests.”

The report also said the inspection revealed “heavy rodent droppings throughout the area where employee kitchen is located, behind equipment, on the floors, and the stove they use for cooking meals ... inside the dry storage cooler being used for Sorrel tea product .... on a glue board in the same dry cooler (and .... on the floor near the main bay doors.”

Kingston-Miami Trading Company told the Miami Herald Monday it is “fully cooperating with the Inspector from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and working diligently to rectify the problems as quickly as possible.” A re-inspection is scheduled.



## How To Spend Wisely At The Grocery Store

Whether you are packing school lunches or hosting a dinner party, you want your fridge and pantry to be stocked with the highest-quality foods for the best value. Thankfully, there’s a better way to navigate store aisles than just picking products at random and hoping for the best, one which doesn’t involve hours of product research.

Product of the Year USA, the largest consumer-voted awards program centred around product innovation, recently announced the winners of the 2023 Product of the Year Awards across 36 trending categories. Determined through a national study of 40,000 American shoppers in partnership with Kantar, a global leader in consumer research, the winners represent the best new products when it comes to thoughtful design, quality and innovation.

“It’s easier than ever for today’s consumers to be overwhelmed by choice. Far beyond retail aisles, they now have direct-to-consumer options, grocery delivery in the palm of their hands, and a never-ending stream of their favorite influencers reviewing products,” says Mike

Nolan, global CEO of Product of the Year Management. “It’s important to us to help consumers and their families cut through the noise.”

To make your visits to the supermarket a breeze, consider this year’s 20 food and beverage winners, listed by category:

- Bread | ALDI-exclusive Specially Selected French Baguette – ALDI
- Breakfast | Quaker Puffed Granola – PepsiCo
- Cheese | ALDI-exclusive Emporium Selection Feta Block Assortment – ALDI
- Coffee Creamer | Lactose-Free Flavored Creamer in French Vanilla and Sweet Cream – Organic Valley
- Condiment | ALDI-exclusive Burman’s Dipping Sauces – ALDI
- Convenience Meals | Hot Pockets Deliwich – Nestlé USA
- Entrée | Pasta-Roni Heat & Eat – PepsiCo
- Frozen Dessert | ALDI-exclusive Sundae Shoppe Gelato – ALDI
- Keto | ALDI-exclusive Benton’s Keto Cookies – ALDI
- Meal Replacement | Complete Nutrition Shakes – SoyLent

- Meal Solution | Bob Evans Mashed Cauliflower – Bob Evans Farms
- Non-Chocolate | HARIBO Berry Clouds – HARIBO of America, Inc.
- Non-Dairy | ALDI-exclusive Friendly Farms Non-Dairy Whipped Toppings – ALDI
- On-The-Go Snack | ALDI-exclusive Park Street Deli Sweet Snack Selects – ALDI
- Premixed Drink | ALDI-exclusive Zarita Margaritas – ALDI
- Salty Snack | Takis Hot Nuts Fuego – Barcel USA
- Smoothie | DOLE BOOSTED BLENDS Berry Spark Smoothie – Dole Packaged Foods
- Snack & Appetizer | El Monterey Chili Cheese Chimichanga – Ruiz Foods
- Soft Drink | Nitro Pepsi – PepsiCo
- Wine | ALDI-exclusive Don’t Mind If I Do Sauvignon Blanc – ALDI

For more information about this year’s winners, visit [productoftheyearusa.com](http://productoftheyearusa.com).

- StatePoint



## Jamaican Among Uber Eats UK Black Business Fund Winners



Jamaican immigrant to the UK, Santeni Brown, is among the winners of this year’s Uber Eats Black Business Fund. (Uber Eats image)

A Jamaican immigrant to the UK is among the winners of this year’s Uber Eats Black Business Fund. Londoner Santeni Brown, who left a career in fashion to open her first restaurant, Dinner at Sans, in Brixton.

Brown won £10,000 from the Uber Eats Black Business Fund. A total of £250,000 was awarded in partnership with Be Inclusive Hospitality and Enterprise Nation, an entity established in 2021. The 25 awardees were selected from more than 600 restaurant applicants.

“I was born in Jamaica where food is a huge part of the culture,” Brown was quoted as saying. “Bringing the energy of London and Jamaican food culture together has been such an amazing experience.”

“Going forward I want to keep championing women of colour and people from underserved communities – helping to recruit and train staff looking to make their way in

hospitality,” she added. “With this grant I want to expand to a bigger unit, invest in staff, and take my marketing to the next level. For anyone looking to start their own restaurant I would say: start small, master your niche, and then the rest will grow from there.”



## Caribbean Has Highest Cost Of A Healthy Diet Compared To Other Regions



An analysis by the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has found that the Caribbean and Latin American regions have the highest cost of a healthy diet compared to other regions.

The FAO said in a statement that it had analysed how many people can in fact afford a healthy diet, one that offers a diversity of nutrient-rich food, aligned with dietary guidance and found that billions of people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet.

FAO said that indicators developed by FAO with critical inputs from researchers at Tufts University and the World Bank show, that Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest cost of a healthy diet compared to other

regions, at US\$3.89 per person per day in 2020, followed by Asia (US\$3.72), Africa (US\$3.46), Northern America and Europe (US\$3.19) and Oceania (US\$3.07).

Between 2019 and 2020, Asia witnessed the highest surge in the cost of a healthy diet (4.0 per cent), followed by Oceania (3.6 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (3.4 per cent), Northern America and Europe (3.2 per cent) and Africa (2.5 per cent).

“Putting an end to hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms (including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity) is about more than securing enough food to survive: What people eat must also be nutritious,” said David Laborde, Director of FAO’s Agrifood Economics Division. “Yet a key obstacle is the high cost of nutritious foods and the low affordability of healthy diets for vast numbers of people around the world.”

- Rewritten from CMC



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Peter A. Webley  
Publisher



## Take These 6 Steps To Manage Your Blood Pressure

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, affects nearly half of adults in the United States, and only about 1 in 4 with this condition have it under control, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Hypertension can be dangerous and, in many cases, fatal. In 2020, it was a primary or contributing cause of more than 670,000 deaths nationwide. Medical experts say that controlling your blood pressure is possible and it starts with having the right information.

“Nearly half of all American adults have high blood pressure, and many don’t even know it. High blood pressure is a ‘silent killer,’ often having no overt symptoms, but increases the likelihood of heart attack, stroke and other serious health risks. I urge you to know your numbers and make the simple lifestyle changes that can help you control your blood pressure and live a long and healthy life,” says Jack Resneck Jr., M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

To get on the right track, consider these tips and insights from the AMA:

### 1. Know your numbers

Hypertension is diagnosed when your systolic blood pressure is greater than 130 mmHg or your average diastolic blood pressure is greater than 80 mmHg. Visit [ManageYourBP.org](https://www.manageyourbp.org) to better understand your numbers.

### 2. Monitor blood pressure

Once you learn your blood pressure numbers, take and keep regular records using an at-home blood pressure monitor. For an accurate reading, the CDC says to sit with your back supported for 5 minutes before starting and wait at least 30 minutes after drinking or eating a meal. You should also avoid stimulants for at least 30 minutes beforehand, as the CDC says that smoking and drinking alcohol or caffeine can elevate your blood pressure. If you take medication for hypertension, measure your blood pressure before your dose. Share your numbers with your



health care provider.

### 3. Eat right

Reduce your intake of processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Eat less red meat and processed meats, and add more plant-based foods, such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds and olive oil to your diet. Also, reduce your consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and drink more water instead. Drinking

sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher all-cause mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open.

### 4. Drink alcohol only in moderation

If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans -- up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by

adults of legal drinking age.

### 5. Be more physically active

Do at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity. Be sure to include a mix of cardiovascular exercise, strength training and flexibility. Obtain guidance from your doctor if you aren’t sure if it is safe for you to exercise.

### 6. Maintain a healthy weight

If you are overweight, losing as little as 5 to 10 pounds may help lower your blood pressure. Consult your doctor about safe ways to maintain a healthy weight.

“Unmanaged hypertension can have life-altering consequences,” says Dr. Resneck. “The good news is that there are many ways you can take control of your blood pressure and your health.”

- **StatePoint**



## Florida Issues Recall On Raw Oysters



The Florida Department of Health, (FDOH), has issued a recall on raw oysters after a salmonella outbreak.

According to the FDOH, there have been eight cases linked to the outbreak in Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Salmonella was detected with the consumption of raw oysters harvested from the area FL-3012 in Cedar Key. The harvesting area was closed on Feb.

24, and a recall was issued for wild oysters harvested from Dec. 16 to Feb. 24.

FDOH officials said consumption of food contaminated with salmonella can cause salmonellosis. Salmonellosis symptoms can include diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and fever within 12 to 72 hours after consumption.



## Lee County Votes To Ban COVI-19 Vaccine

The “Ban the jab” resolution passed with a majority vote in the Lee County Republican Party and will now head to Governor Ron DeSantis’ desk.

This comes after a member of the Lee County Republican Party wrote a resolution for the executive committee to consider. Joe Sansone argued the risks of the COVID vaccine are not worth it.

Sansone so far as to label the vaccine a bioweapon. “The Lee County Republican Party is going to be on the

vanguard of this campaign to stop the genocide because we have foreign non-governmental entities that are unleashing biological weapons on the American people,” he said.

Because the Republican Party of Lee County has no power per se, DeSantis can just ignore it if he chooses.



- **CBSNews.com**



## Diagnosed With Bladder Cancer? Here Are 4 Things You Should Know

Bladder cancer is the fourth-most diagnosed cancer among men in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, men have a one in 27 chance and women have a one in 89 chance of developing this cancer during their lifetime.

As with any serious illness, being equipped with the right information after a bladder cancer diagnosis is important. Here five things you should know about detection, removal and surveillance.

### 1: The importance of improved detection

You probably had a cystoscopy procedure during your diagnosis or during a transurethral resection of bladder tumour (TURBT). While performing the cystoscopy, your urologist likely looked inside your bladder with a small scope using regular white light for

illumination. There is also an enhanced cystoscopy procedure called Blue Light Cystoscopy, which uses both white and blue light. This can reveal additional tumors that are either difficult or impossible to see in white light. If you don’t know whether you had this procedure, ask your doctor.

### 2. The value of enhanced visibility

Without the use of Blue Light Cystoscopy, it can be more difficult to identify the margins of certain tumors or smaller tumors may be missed. In fact, some flat tumors, called carcinoma in situ (CIS), are typically invisible with white light alone. While Blue Light Cystoscopy may not detect all malignant lesions, when urologists have a better view of tumors, they’re able to more completely remove them.

### 3. Impact on your care

A more complete resection of tumors means that your urologist has removed all the cancer that can be seen using both white and blue light. Less cancer in your bladder improves the chances that subsequent treatment will be successful. Also, the more tumor samples that can be tested by the pathologist, the better chance there is of more accurately understanding the stage and grade of your cancer. The guidelines that doctors use to make treatment decisions are based on cancer stage and grade, so more confidence in this determination can mean a greater chance of success with

appropriate treatment.

### 4. Surveillance is critical

Historically, bladder cancer has the highest recurrence rate (between 50-80%) of any form of cancer. This can be due to missed tumors and incomplete surgeries because not all cancerous tissue is easy to see under white light. This is one reason that surveillance visits are of the utmost importance. It is vital to keep checking in with your doctor as directed.

If you visit an office that uses Blue Light Cystoscopy, you’ll be able to see on the monitor whether any areas of your bladder indicate potential cancer. Small tumors might be removed right there in the office, while more advanced tumors could mean needing another TURBT procedure in the operating room. Whatever the results, both patients and urologists report having greater confidence in the examination when using enhanced imaging techniques.

### 5. Find out more

After a bladder cancer diagnosis, it’s important to be aware of the latest technologies available in disease detection. Ask your urologist about whether you were diagnosed using Blue Light Cystoscopy. To find where Blue Light Cystoscopy is available near you, visit <https://rebrand.ly/Find-BLC-4things>.

- **StatePoint**





## Rihanna Eyes Empire Of Products

Barbadian star Rihanna is a Caribbean immigrant woman in business who is now juggling motherhood and the life of an entrepreneur.

Rihanna, who is now pregnant with her second child, is reportedly plotting her next business move after filing new trademark, this time to expand her business into the eyewear and swimwear industry.

The filing was made on February 23, 2023, and is under the name “RIRI,” which covers a variety of goods, including sunglasses, swimwear, shoes, coats, neckwear, and belts. Rihanna is so far involved in the fashion industry with her Savage X Fenty line, which sells lingerie; her Fenty Beauty brand, which sells makeup, and Fenty Skin which sells skincare products.

Details of the application can be found on the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, which shows that the application was made by



Rihanna performing at the Super Bowl Half-Time Show on Feb. 12th. (Getty image)

a company called Roraj Inc and in two classes of goods.

The latest application by Rihanna comes just weeks after she filed an application for approval of a trademark called “Fenty Kids” in late January. The description of the trademark says it concerns the sale of “infant wear, swimwear, hats,

underwear, footwear, leggings, socks.”

That application comes following the birth of Rihanna’s son, whose image she shared with the world in February. The singer has been very vocal about how motherhood changed her life, revealing in a Vogue interview that becoming a

mother made her feel like she could take on the world.

The singer also hinted in a Vogue magazine cover how she felt about the current designs for children and her desire to make fashionable clothing for her son and other kids.

“I like to dress him [her son] in things that don’t look like baby clothes. I like to push it. I put him in floral stuff. I put him in hot pink. I love that. I think that fluidity in fashion is best. I always shop in the men’s department, you know.”

She added, “When you come up with something in your head, half the time it is not available because kids’ clothes are so... they’re sooo boring. I’m like, ‘This is what y’all been doing to these people’s kids all along?’”

### PUMA

The singer turned entrepreneur and actress is also joining forces with Puma once again.

The sportswear manufacturer has announced that they are collaborating with the “We Found Love” singer’s Fenty brand.

“She’s back,” the Instagram post read above the Fenty and Puma symbols. While the fashion brand did not offer any additional details about the merge, they did reveal that it is “coming soon.”

### OSCARS

The business news comes as Rihanna is set to perform ‘Lift Me Up,’ at the Oscars on March 12th, after performing at the Super Bowl Half-Time show last month.

Rihanna’s estimated net worth is \$1.4 billion. She became America’s youngest self-made female billionaire in 2022.

- *Rewritten from Multiple Sources*



## British-Caribbean Entrepreneur Marks 13 Years

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

At nine years old, she came to a country foreign to her own. It was cold, snowy, grey. Coming from Nonsuch, a picturesque town in the lush parish of Portland, Jamaica, Etta Burrell landed in London in 1968. She encountered a new environment in which she felt she didn’t belong. But, after a time, neither did she belong to the country she left behind.

“We come from sunshine to come here. And I thought, how can this be a better place? And then I thought, we’re all here sitting on the fence because we ended up not belonging to Jamaica and not belonging here. It was like culture shock,” Burrell reminisced.

But after a time, she embraced her new home surrounded by familiar sounds and tastes. With fond memories of her mother taking her through the Brixton markets on a Saturday, spending hours shopping and connecting with other residents, then going home to soup left on the stove to cook, Burrell might have found her calling.

Thirteen years ago, she opened Etta’s Seafood Kitchen, one of the most popular Caribbean-Continental restaurants in the famous Brixton Village complex. It could be nowhere else for this Brixtonian who has lived in this town for more than four decades.

Sing-Song Cadence  
A bustling community in the heart of Southwest London, Brixton became known for the riots in the 1980s led by mostly black residents fighting back against racist police and a

rightwing government. Home to a large African-Caribbean population, including noted Jamaican poet/activist Linton Kwesi Johnson, Brixton was struggling with high unemployment, poor housing, and high level of crime at the time. It is a place where many Caribbean people settled during the Windrush years (1948-1973), having been invited by the British government to help rebuild the country after World War 2. It is a place where the sing-song cadence of its people defined the area that birthed shops filled with foods and products from back home.

Today, this Caribbean enclave has become one of the trendiest neighborhoods in London. With cafes, restaurants, pubs, clubs, and theatres, the now gentrified community has become home to all races, colors, classes. And, although there are still some original black businesses in the area, many have been economically squeezed out. The same can be said for older residents who can no longer afford to live in this neighborhood, that is still developing. But Burrell never left her beloved Brixton, instead helping to build a thriving community.

It seems Burrell was destined to open her business here, for it happened so seamlessly. She recounts how she had a dream one night that laid out her life plan in Brixton.



Thirteen years ago, Etta Burrell, opened Etta’s Seafood Kitchen, one of the most popular Caribbean-Continental restaurants in the famous Brixton Village complex. (Contributed image)

Following that directive, Burrell went to the Granville Arcade (now Brixton Village) in search of an answer. It came in the form of an offer to take over a space in the arcade and try it out for three months. That was the beginning of her step into entrepreneurship.

“That’s how it started. I was so blessed. And I knew what I was good at, cooking... I used to go around to the fishmongers and I would buy one prawn for 10 pence, a crab claw for 10 pence, and so on. I couldn’t cook anything in my restaurant unless I liked it. So, I started cooking and experimenting,” Burrell explained in a conversation with Caribbean Today.

She added: “The community has been so nice to me. Someone gave me a table; some gave me chairs. There is nothing I needed

that didn’t come through that door.”

### BUZZING

Burrell prepares and cooks all the meals, with the help of staff members, Marcia and Rose. And Her three daughters, Serena, Alexandra, and Cheryl will help out when necessary. The entrepreneur is also grateful to a special chef who she says ‘can duplicate her’ when things get super busy. Indeed, Etta’s Seafood Kitchen is always buzzing virtually every day of the week. Besides her ever-present smile, Burrell’s flavorful fare keeps foodies coming back. Among some favorites are Seafood Curry, Jamaican Brown Stew Fish, Sweet Potato Pumpkin Curry, and Ackee and Salt Fish, all infused with various spices and herbs, and of

course, scotch bonnet pepper. The difference? Her meals are distinctive.

“I was born in Jamaica, but we’re not in Jamaica, so I do things with a twist. There are some people who like pepper, there are some who don’t like loads of spices and other things. So, I accommodate, so you know what I do? I cook to order. It’s your soul I’m feeding,” said Burrell from the heart.

Asked how the COVID-19 pandemic affected her business, Burrell said nothing changed.

“Things only affect you when you let it affect you. Thank you, God! We did takeaways. We made deliveries through Deliveroo. People would place an order over the phone and come in to pick it up. They never had to come into the restaurant; we had a chair at the front door, and they would pick up from there.”

With indoor and outdoor seating, the restaurant is not large, but it’s homey, cozy feel along with the enticing aromas is what makes it special. Would she consider expanding? If it’s supposed to happen, it will she said, adding “I never look further than my nose.”

The point is, Burrell is happy in her space, happy in Brixton.

Her advice for young entrepreneurs?

“You need to find what you’re good at. Sometimes we don’t stick to what we know, we always go into other things. All I can say is, find yourself, find what you’re good at, and be consistent... It’s about sharing the love of what you do.”





## FINANCIAL PLANNING



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## Why You Need A Will

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a will legally protect your spouse, children, and assets, it can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on.

While each person's situation varies, here are the top ten reasons to have a will:

**1: If you want to decide how your estate will be distributed, you need a will.**

A will lets you determine how you would like your estate to be handled upon your death. Without a will, your estate passes under the laws of intestacy, not according to your desires; there is no guarantee that your intended desires will be carried out. Having a will helps minimize any family fights about your estate that may arise, and also determines the "who, what, and when" of your estate.

**2) If you want to decide who will take care of your minor children, you need a will.**

A will allows you to make the decision about who should take care of your minor children. Absent a will, the court will take it upon itself to choose among family members or a state-appointed guardian. Having a will allows you to appoint the person you want to raise your children or, better, make sure it is not someone you do not want to raise your children.

**3) If you want to avoid a lengthy probate process, you need a will.**

Contrary to common belief, all estates must go through the probate process, with or without a will. Having a will, however, speeds up the probate process and informs the court how you'd like your estate divided. Probate courts serve the purpose of "administering your estate", and when you die without a will, the court will decide how to divide estate without your input, which can also cause long, unnecessary



delays.

**4) If you want to minimize estate taxes, you may need a will.**

If you have a taxable estate, a will can help minimize your estate tax exposure. The value of what you give away to family members or charity will reduce the value of your estate when it's time to pay estate taxes.

**5) If you want to decide who will wind up the affairs of your estate, you need a will.**

The Personal Representative makes sure all your affairs are in order, including paying off bills, cancelling your credit cards, and notifying the bank and other business establishments. Because the Personal Representative plays the biggest role in the administration of your estate, you'll want to be sure to appoint someone who is honest, trustworthy, and organized (which may or may not always be a family member).

**6) If you want to disinherit individuals who would otherwise stand to inherit, you need a will.**

Most people do not realize they can disinherit individuals out of their will. Yes, you may wish to disinherit individuals who may otherwise inherit your estate if you die without a will. Because wills specifically outline how you would like your estate distributed, absent a will your estate may end up on the wrong hands or in the hands of someone you did not intend.

**7) If you want to make gifts and donations, you need a will.**

The ability to make gifts is a good reason to have a will because it allows your legacy to live on and

reflect your personal values and interests. In addition, gifts up to \$14,000 are excluded from estate tax, so you're also increasing the value of your estate for your heirs and beneficiaries to enjoy.

**8) If you want to avoid legal challenges to your estate, you need a will.**

If you die without a will, part or all of your estate may pass to someone you did not intend. For example, one case involved the estate of a deceased son who was awarded over \$1 million from a wrongful death lawsuit. When the son died, the son's father – who had not been a part of his son's life for over 32 years – stood to inherit the entire estate, leaving close relatives and siblings out of the picture!

**9) You need a will because you can change your mind when circumstances change.**

A good reason for having a will is that you can change it at any time while you're still alive. Life changes, such as births, deaths, and divorce, can create situations where changing your will are necessary.

**10) You need a will because tomorrow is not promised.**

Procrastination and the unwillingness to accept death as part of life are common reasons for not having a will. Sometimes the realization that wills are necessary, comes too late – such as when an unexpected death or disability occurs. Avoid the added stress on your family during an already emotional time; call us today to help you create an estate plan that meets your needs and protects your family.

- *Rewritten from the Short, Setzer, Cowart Law Firm*



## How To Turn Your Finances Around In The Months Ahead

Many consumers are feeling financial strain after a challenging economic year in 2022. One in three Americans say they are struggling to get by or are in trouble financially, according to Lincoln Financial Group's Consumer Sentiment Tracker. The study also found that people aren't necessarily seeing any relief in sight, with 76% believing factors like inflation, market volatility and debt will worsen.

However, there are a few bright spots. Those who had specific financial goals last year were two to three times more likely to say various aspects of their personal finances improved. They were also three times more likely to say they did a great job on their overall financial wellness last year and twice as likely to be optimistic about their finances in 2023. So where should you start in creating and reaching your own financial goals?

"Lincoln's research underscores the importance of taking a definitive approach," said Ed Walters, senior vice president, Lincoln Financial Network, the wealth management arm of Lincoln Financial Group. "While

The average national rent surpassed \$2,000 for the first time ever in 2022, which has made keeping up with rent payments challenging for millions of people across the United States. In fact, a recent Freddie Mac survey found that 70% of renters are concerned about making their rent payment in the short term.

If you're among those struggling to pay rent, there is good news: many resources exist to help renters remain in their homes.

Here are six actions you can take to help keep you in your rental:

**1: Contact Your Landlord**

If you know you will be unable to pay your rent, contact your landlord in writing to explain your situation. Your landlord may be able to offer you such options as changing the date rent is due each month, lowering rent payments or creating a repayment plan.

**2. Consider More Affordable Apartments**

Finding a less expensive apartment may be the right solution if you anticipate having regular trouble paying your rent. However, with rents on the rise everywhere, this can be a challenge. As you start your search, remember to factor in the fees and moving expenses you might incur. Moving within your building or to another property managed by the same company may be one way to avoid onboarding fees.

**3. Find a Roommate**

If you have the space, taking on a roommate can significantly reduce your monthly rent and utility expenses. Make sure to follow the terms of your lease when adding a roommate to any

apartment. This could include having them sign a formal lease.

**4. Access Short-Term Rental Assistance**

Local housing authorities and some national organizations have short-term rent relief funds you can apply for to help cover the cost of rent while you get back on your feet. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has a list of assistance programs for renters.

**5. Understand Eviction Protections**

Be aware of the eviction protections you're eligible for should you be unable to pay rent. The CFPB has a list of states with protections in place that prevent landlords from evicting renters for failure to pay rent.

**6. Work with a Renter Resource Organization**

There are many non-profit Renter Resource Organizations throughout the country that can assist you if you are facing a housing-related challenge. These entities provide services and resources to help you maintain housing, including eviction prevention and landlord-tenant mediation. They also can assist you in locating alternative housing and provide financial planning advice. Services offered may vary by provider. To find an organization that can help you with your situation, contact Freddie Mac's Renter Hotline at 800-404-3097.

For more information about renting, including resources to help you determine how much you can afford, visit My Home by Freddie Mac at myhome.freddiemac.com.

- *StatePoint*



## Final Expense Insurance

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

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# SPRING TRAVEL

## interCaribbean Airways Increasing Regional Service

interCaribbean Airways is increasing its regional footprint as the 'Caribbean regional carrier' with expanded service to many islands.

interCaribbean Airways recently announced new nonstop services from St Kitts to Barbados. These flights will connect with services to Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and Georgetown, Guyana.

Service from the Barbados Grantly Adams International Airport is scheduled to commence on Sunday, 12 March 2023. An Embraer-120 aircraft with a seating capacity of 30 seats will service St. Kitts from Barbados three times weekly on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

This comes as the carrier announced that the number of flights and seats into Saint Lucia will increase come March 12, 2023, when the airline will introduce a 3 times a week non-stop service from Saint Vincent on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, making connectivity between the two countries much faster.

"We are delighted to partner with interCaribbean Airways to provide our guests with more convenient and affordable travel options. This partnership will help us increase inter-regional travel and welcome more visitors to

Saint Lucia throughout the year," remarked Dr. Ernest Hilaire, Minister for Tourism, Investment, Creative Industries, Culture and Information. "interCaribbean has served Saint Lucia, since 2018 with only the pandemic causing a hiatus in service. But with the reopening of the region in August 2020, and the opportunity to enter into Barbados began the new connectivity to add that city from Saint Lucia, along with connections to many other points."

"With high demand for travel to or through Saint Lucia, we recognized the need to separate some of the flying to increase available seats to Saint Lucia," said Trevor Sadler, CEO, interCaribbean Airways. "Starting March 12 with our new schedule Saint Lucia will enjoy more capacity, both in flights and seeing the upsize of aircraft as we also introduce the ATR42 into the network. We look forward to continuing to work with Saint Lucia Tourism Authority as we strive to meet the demands of regional travel."

For more information about Saint Lucia and scheduled flights to the destination, visit [Caribbeantoday.org](http://Caribbeantoday.org).

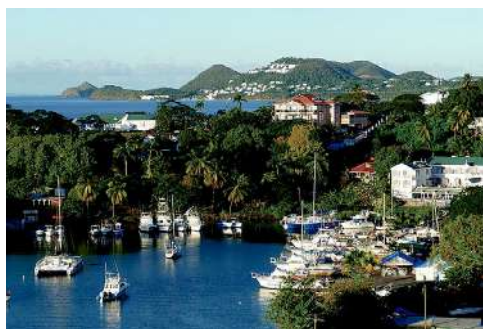


## Saint Lucia Introduces A Seamless Entry Process With An Online Ed Form

Meanwhile, effective March 1, 2023, Saint Lucia's entry process became more seamless with the introduction of an online Embarkation/Disembarkation (ED) form that allows for the electronic processing of travellers.

The introduction of the online ED form is delivered by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and funded through the 11th European Development Fund. It is also in line with initiatives by the Government of Saint Lucia, towards a digital conversion of public sector services, for the continued improvement of the island's operational competencies and simplicity of conducting business.

The electronic ED Form will replace the written form, providing real-time information to Immigration, Customs, and Port Health, and will significantly reduce the processing time of arriving passengers. The system has been comprehensively tested at the George F.L. Charles Airport (SLU) and at the Hewanorra International Airport (UVF), with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the executing



St. Lucia is making it easier to travel there.

agencies.

Completion of the online ED form is only applicable to air travel and is not a requirement for boarding; however, passengers should submit prior arrival in Saint Lucia for swift processing on arrival. If the electronic form has not been completed by the time a passenger arrives in Saint Lucia, then the written form, provided by the airline or in country, will be required.

The simple four-step process requires travellers to;

1. Visit [stlucia.org/entry](http://stlucia.org/entry)
2. Complete and submit the user-friendly ED form.
3. Receive a QR code by email.
4. Present the QR code (on a device such as a phone, laptop, tablet etc., or a printed copy) and travel document (passport) to officials on arrival.



## Jamaica Welcomes New Non-Stop Frontier Service From Three Gateways

Continuing to expand gateways and ease of access to the island for US travellers, Jamaica has welcomed new nonstop air service from Denver International Airport (DEN) to Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport (MBJ) with Frontier Airlines.

The new flight, operating three times per week, will be the only non-stop service from the Denver market, opening this important region to the destination. The new service marks the third new launch with Frontier Airlines this week, with the airline inaugurating new flights from St. Louis on Thursday along with Chicago Midway expected today. In addition, Frontier Airlines will launch new service from Dallas in May which will bring the total number of gateways with Jamaica to nine.

"I am pleased to welcome this new service from Frontier as we continue to grow our partnership together," said Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism. "It has been a banner week for Jamaica and the airline with our launches in St. Louis, Chicago, and Denver. It is a testament both to our strong partnership and the continued strong interest in Jamaica as a



Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, fourth from right, welcomed the inaugural flight from Denver, Colorado. (JTB image)

destination for U.S. travellers."

"These new services will provide ever easier ways for our visitors to get to our shores and begin to connect with our rich culture and scenic adventures," said Donovan White, Director of Tourism.

"Our growth in Montego Bay and across the island is unmatched," said Daniel Shurz, Senior Vice President of Commercial, Frontier Airlines. "Our expansion to three popular American destinations provides tremendous opportunity for Jamaicans who are eager for even more convenient and affordable

travel options. Furthermore, we are thrilled to bring additional tourism and economic impact to Jamaica through this new service which will allow even more travellers from the U.S. to enjoy the island's stunning beaches, communities, and resorts."

Frontier Airlines' non-stop flights to Montego Bay from Denver and St. Louis three times weekly and Chicago one time weekly. Check <https://flights.flyfrontier.com/en/flights-from-montego-bay> for additional information.



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<http://www.miamidade.gov/police/contacts-homicide.asp>



## HIT & RUN FATALITY



### VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN

Rupert Webley  
B/M, 68 years old

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# SPRING TRAVEL


[www.caribbeantoday.com](http://www.caribbeantoday.com)

## Jamaican Culture In Australia

Steve Higgins Productions recently spread its wings to the nethermost region of the southern hemisphere, touching down in Melbourne Australia in January 2023, with a nostalgic Jamaican cultural show to an enthusiastic gathering of Jamaicans and non-Jamaicans.

The Show, commemorating Jamaica's 60th anniversary as an independent nation, was its inaugural performance in the Asia-Pacific region, expanding the Steve Higgins Productions' Jamaica-60 Diamond Jubilee Tour which began in April 2022 in Houston, Texas. That tour featured singers Dahlia Wynter, April Marr and Steve Higgins, who sang



Steven Higgins with Jamaicans in Australia. (Contributed Image)

Jamaican Folk Music, delivered in their historical context, along with the stories behind them; Reggae favorites as well as other

genres of delightful music.

Several Jamaicans in the audience had not visited their homeland in decades and had an obvious longing for our rich rhythmic and exciting Jamaican Folk music, along with the colorful stories and accounts that made their hearts tingle with delight and nostalgia. When some familiar folk songs started, they broke out into spontaneous enthusiastic dancing and spirited

child-like prancing, bubbling with excitement and vigorous abandonment.

Aussies who were present, who have not yet visited Jamaica, have declared their intention to do so in very short order. Radio personality and impresario Stick Mareebo took to the stage with his signature dance and rap, while and DJ Zare Demus took control of the After Party.

"I enjoyed it tremendously- Nostalgia! ... and was transported for a moment to my beloved Island," beamed Her Excellency Shorna-Kay Richards, Jamaica's Ambassador with responsibility for Australia, "I believe you brought much joy and evoked wonderful memories for the audience."

Higgins' Australian appearance was part of the Series dubbed "Love & Nostalgia," which was launched by Consul General Oliver Mair and Mayor Judy Paul in 2022 in Davie, Florida.

The Jamaica 60 Tour presents exciting, interactive, and informative Cultural Workshops, as well as a signature Concert,

featuring Jamaican and international genres.

"This Legacy Tour - an educational exposé on Jamaican folk music," says Higgins, "features every aspect of Jamaican life including love, 'labrish,' spirituality, slavery and life celebrations. The songs are indigenous to Jamaica and come from a mixture of influences—Africa, Britain, Spain, the Maroons and Jamaica's indigenous people, the Tainos." Songs such as "Day-O", "Manuel Road", "Dis Long Time Gal", "Colon Man" and "Fan Mi Soldier Man" elicited feelings of interest, nostalgia and fun! The Jamaica-60 tour, sponsored by the Jamaica Tourist Board, is designed to be a narrative of Jamaica's history through music and a way to pass the culture down to descendants of Jamaicans.

Part proceeds will go to the Partners for Youth Foundation and the STEP Centre for Children with multiple disabilities.



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## Jamaica To Remove Visa Free Travel For Cubans

The Jamaican government will remove visa-free transit for Cubans. Presently Cubans are allowed to transit through Jamaica for up to three days.

In a notice to the public, the Ministry of National Security said the allowance will be discontinued effective March 13. All other visa requirements for Cubans entering Jamaica remain the same.

The Ministry did not explain the reason for the move, but the government is seeking to curb an influx of Cubans who appear to be using Jamaica as a transit point to Central America in an attempt to illegally gain entry into the United States.

Minister of National Security Dr Horace Chang said he was aware of the challenge with Cubans.

In a statement, Chang stated

Jamaica is being used by Cuban travelers as part of efforts to get to Central America.

The United States has complained about an influx of Cuban travelers who have been making their way to the US-Mexico border. The security minister stated that over the last three years, and in particular, over the last year, there have been significant breaches of the visa-free transit arrangement by Cubans.

For the period July 2022 to December 2022, tens of thousands of Cubans transited Jamaican ports en route to Central America and did not return, Chang pointed out.

"We cannot allow Jamaica to be used as an illegal transit point, whether perceived or detected, for people nor

contraband."

Chang said Jamaica continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the Government and the people of Cuba.

The Biden administration announced it was limiting migrants from Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Haiti who enter the US to 30,000 each month under humanitarian parole, while expelling those who attempt to cross the southwestern border.

Biden said migrants from those countries, among tens of thousands of others who endeavor monthly to cross the border, will be expeditiously returned to Mexico instead.

- CMC



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## Scholarship Foundation Of Late Soccer Coach Seeks To Raise US\$100K

The Washington based foundation of late Jamaican-born Kingston College (KC) past student, football coach and co-founder of Meadhaven United Football Club, David "Wagga" Hunt, has its eyes set on a huge goal this year.

The David Wagga Hunt Foundation wants to raise US \$100,000 to help provide scholarships to students in Jamaica. The foundation recently received a boost when the annual fundraising gala reported an initial intake of just over US \$60,000.

Chairman Christopher Hunt, said the goal for this year was US \$100,000 and he is confident that the target will be met, as there were other persons who had generously pledged contributions which had not yet been collected.

Hunt said to date over US\$125,000 (J\$19 million) have been distributed to students, inclusive of 42 scholarships. He noted that, "we are very active with the Jamaican Students matriculating at Howard University (Washington D.C.) by mentoring and providing a homely atmosphere inclusive of providing occasional authentic



The Wagga Hunt Scholarship Foundation's Gala organizing committee member, Michael McPherson, right received an award from Chairman of the David Wagga Hunt Foundation, Christopher Hunt, for his unwavering and dedicated service to the foundation at the ninth annual David Wagga Hunt Fundraising Gala held at the National Education Association Atrium downtown Washington, DC. Looking on are Loxley O'Conner Garth Pottinger and Arnold McDonald members of the Gala organizing committee. (Photo Derrick Scott)

Jamaican cuisine."

Scholarship recipients must display commendable academic performance and attitude, be involved in extracurricular activities, and be deemed to need financial assistance.

The Chairman said that the number of awards has increased in recent years, and the goal is to continue offering scholarships to deserving students at the beneficiary schools.

The approximately \$600,000 award covers tuition, books,

lunch, and other related school expenses for each student from grade eight to K13.

This year, the Foundation honored two distinguished Jamaicans: Retired Lt. General Vincent R. Stewart for Exemplary Leadership in the Public Sector, and Dr. John-Paul Clarke for "Exemplary Achievements in Aerospace Engineering, Academia, and Philanthropy."



## Cancer Takes Out Jamaican NBA Player

Former NBA Seattle Storm and Iowa Hawkeyes center, Jamaican born Simone Edwards has died at age 49, two years after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The 6-foot-4 Edwards was a track standout in Jamaica when she was discovered by an American basketball coach. She played junior college basketball in Oklahoma and then went to Iowa from 1994 to 1997. There, she was part of the Hawkeyes' Big Ten regular-season championship team in 1996 and Big Ten tournament title team in 1997.

Iowa made the NCAA Sweet 16 in 1996 and fell in the second round in 1997. Edwards then was a developmental player for the New York Liberty in



Simon Edwards has passed away at the young age of 49. (Jamaica Observer image)

1997, the WNBA's inaugural season, but didn't get to play in the league until she went to the expansion Storm in 2000.

She played six seasons with

the Storm, averaging 5.3 points and 3.5 rebounds per game, and was a fan favorite nicknamed the "Jamaican Hurricane." Edwards, who started 48 games during her Storm career, was on Seattle's first of four championship teams in 2004. She retired from the WNBA before the start of the 2006 season at age 32.

She continued to play a couple of more years overseas, then got into coaching with the Jamaican national team and as an assistant at the U.S. collegiate level at Radford and George Mason. Edwards also worked with youth programs in Jamaica.

- *Rewritten from Loop.com*



## 2023 PALA Sixes Cup World Lacrosse Competition For Jamaica

The Pan-American Lacrosse Association (PALA) and the Jamaica Lacrosse Association (JLA), in partnership with the Jamaica Olympic

Association, (JOA), will host the 2023 PALA Sixes Cup world lacrosse competition in Kingston, Jamaica.

The competition will run from November 9-11, 2023. World Lacrosse's Sixes discipline is the fastest growing version of lacrosse in the world.

Most recently, Sixes was played in The World Games 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama and is

the format proposed to be played if lacrosse is included in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California. The PALA Sixes Cup will be the first major international lacrosse event hosted by a Caribbean nation. The Pan-American Lacrosse Association region includes 22 World Lacrosse member-nations with lacrosse programs. PALA member nations regularly field the most competitive men's and women's national teams in all lacrosse disciplines.

JLA President, Calbert Hutchinson, says she is elated

with this announcement. "We are humbled and honored to receive such an opportunity from PALA," said Hutchinson. "Year after year, Jamaican Lacrosse has grown with more schools locally participating and more kids taking up the game. In addition, we are pleased with how our national teams have competed on the world stage and we are confident that we will not only continue to excel on the field of play, but also be an outstanding host of this event."



## Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce Sets Sight On Breaking 100-M World Record



Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce

Jamaica's five-time World 100-m Champion, Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce, says breaking the 100m World Record remains one of her goals as she enters the twilight of her career.

The 36-year-old has a personal best of 10.60 set at the Lausanne Diamond League in 2021 and is coming off a remarkable 2022 season that saw her run below 10.7 a record seven times, including a 10.67 to win her fifth World Championships gold medal in Eugene in July.

"I want to run 10.5 or 10.4. I'm working towards that, but I also don't want it to be the end-all, be-all," the three-time Olympic gold medalist said in an interview with NBC Sports. "I'll be satisfied knowing that I gave 100% towards that effort. Being

able to push myself beyond something that a lot of people think is impossible has given me wings beneath my feet. I don't want to limit myself. I want to think about potential and where I can go with that."

The Women's 100-m World Record currently stands at 10.49 set by American Florence Griffith-Joyner at the US Olympic Trials all the way back in 1988.

Since then, only Fraser-Pryce's countrywoman, five-time Olympic gold medalist Elaine Thompson-Herah, has run below 10.6 when she clocked 10.54 to win at the Prefontaine Classic in 2021.

- *Rewritten from NBC*



## Colgate Women's Games Returns Next Month

The nation's longest-running Track & Field series for girls and women, is kicking off its 48th season this month.

The Colgate Women's Games preliminary meets will be held outdoors at Queens College Track Field, Queens, New York on April 16th & April 23, 2023.

The Semi-Finals is set for April 30, 2023, also at Queens College while the finals is set for May 7, 2023 at New York City's iconic Icahn Stadium at Randall's Island Park.

The Colgate Women's Games main goal is creating pathways for female athletes to achieve their athletic potential and pursue their educational goals by competing for academic scholarships. This season, the scholarships that top performers are eligible to win will be doubled in value. Athletes can register now at ColgateWomensGames.com.

The Colgate Women's Games are free to participate in and attend, as Colgate-Palmolive covers all costs. Every athlete receives a complimentary

competitor's t-shirt, athletic bag with Colgate-Palmolive essential health and hygiene products, and a commemorative ribbon for participation.

Colgate-Palmolive has been the title sponsor of Colgate Women's Games for nearly 50 years, supporting the program since its founding in 1974 by legendary Brooklyn track coach, the late Fred Thompson. The competition, which attracts thousands of competitors from elementary school through college and beyond, promotes the transformational power of athletics, mentorship and education. Athletes can earn one of more than 100 educational scholarships awarded by Colgate-Palmolive each year, in \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 denominations based on order of finish in the series – double the value of scholarships in 2022. In total, more than 5,000 scholarships have been awarded throughout the history of Colgate Women's Games.





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