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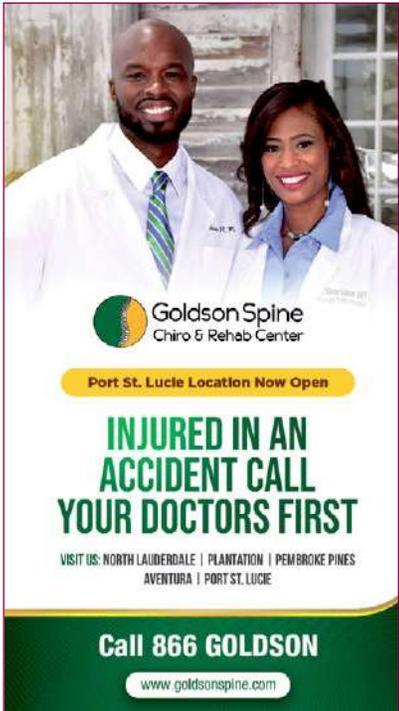
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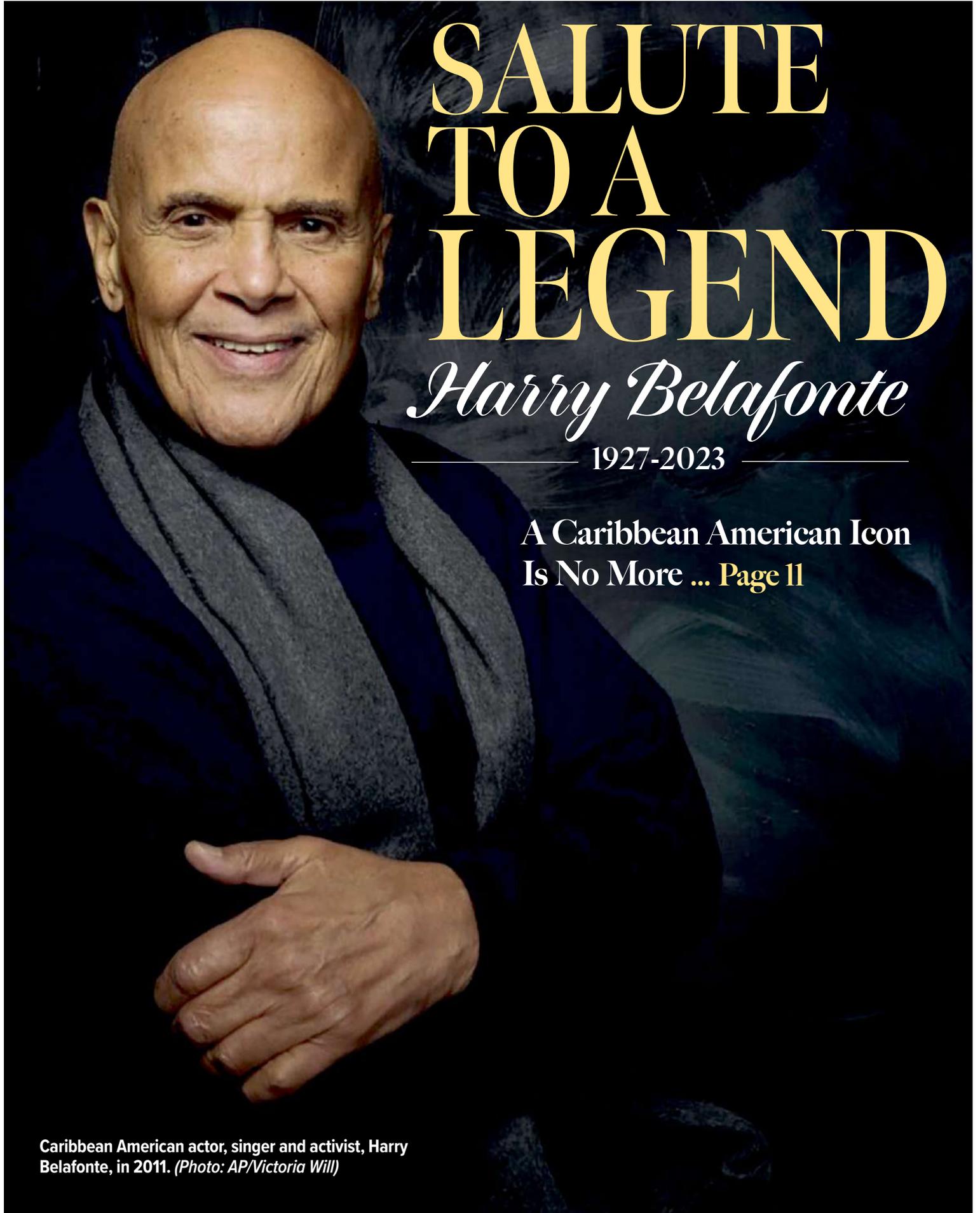
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SALUTE TO A LEGEND

Harry Belafonte

1927-2023

A Caribbean American Icon Is No More ... Page 11

Caribbean American actor, singer and activist, Harry Belafonte, in 2011. (Photo: AP/Victoria Will)



Coronation Relevance? ... Page 3
(Photo credit: Hannah McKay/Getty Images)



Sign Of The Times? ... Page 4
(Credit: Chandan Khanna/AFP/Getty Images)

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

REGION
A senior United States Embassy official says it is only through international cooperation that the Caribbean region could effectively tackle the illicit trafficking in firearms.

Addressing the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, (CBSI) Firearms Technical Working Group, Deputy Chief of Mission, Shante Moore, told regional and international delegates that their presence underscores their commitment to working together to combat illicit trafficking of firearms in the region.

He said that as the region has grown more interconnected, so too have criminal organizations that seek to exploit gaps in the interdiction efforts. "The citizens of our countries deserve a safe, secure, and prosperous Caribbean," he added.

GUYANA
The Guyana government says the balance of the petroleum revenues paid to the National resource Fund (NRF) now stands at US\$1.465 billion.

A statement from the Ministry of Finance noted that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, on Monday tabled the Notification of Receipts to Parliament on behalf of Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh on all

petroleum revenues paid to the NRF during the period January 1 to March 31, 2023.

The NRF Act was strengthened in 2021 replacing the NRF 2019 Act passed by the then A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC) administration. The Ministry of Finance said that last year, a total of US\$607.6 million was withdrawn from the Fund to finance national development priorities, and a further US\$1,002.1 billion is projected to be withdrawn this year.

BAHAMAS
Bahamas Police Commissioner, Clayton Fernander, says an as yet unnamed government legislator accused of raping and assaulting his ex-girlfriend, will be interviewed by police before the end of this week.

Police said that the unidentified woman had filed a complaint in Grand Bahama on April 7th against her ex-boyfriend, a government MP (Member of Parliament).

The woman told the Tribune newspaper that she had been raped, choked and poked in the eye by the legislator, who also made death threats against her and her family during their relationship, prompting her to fear for her life.

The top cop said that the



International coffee house - Starbucks - is now in Guyana. The company opened its first Guyana location on April 24, 2023, at the Amazonia Mall in Providence on the East Bank of Demerara. Guyana has become the global coffee house's 23rd market in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with four more stores set to open across the country. (Photo: Guyana DPI)

police will not be pressured to rush their investigation.

JAMAICA
An investigation is currently under way into allegations that an 11-year-old girl from a south St Andrew community is now in hospital for the third time after being abused by her mother.

A source, who requested anonymity, shared the report with the Jamaica Observer saying that the matter has been reported to the police and the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child

Abuse. The source claimed that the child was severely beaten by her parent and was admitted to hospital after the principal of the school she attends was made aware of the incident.

was broken. Children's Advocate Diahann Gordon Harrison, when contacted, told the Observer that she was not aware of the case but would be looking into the matter. At the same time, head of the West Kingston Police Division Senior Superintendent Michael Phipps said, while he is unaware of the specific incident, he has received reports of abuse against children in recent times.

BARBADOS
A High Court judge has sentenced a lawyer to five years in jail for stealing nearly half a million dollars (One Barbados dollar = US\$0.50 cents) from the beneficiaries of a deceased client.

Justice Randall Worrell imposed a nine-year starting prison sentence on attorney Norman Leroy Lynch who was convicted of theft and money laundering a year ago. However, with the time Lynch spent on remand and other factors taken into consideration, he will only spend five more years of that sentence.

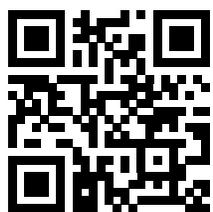
In May last year, Lynch was found guilty of stealing BDS\$407 634, which were the proceeds of a FirstCaribbean International Bank cheque made payable to him and belonging to the estate of Arthur O'Neal

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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May 2023



Is The Coronation Relevant To Caribbean Nationals?



Prime Minister Andrew Holness with King Charles III, at Buckingham Palace last September. (AP image)

constant which is not impacted by changing political parties from elections.”

PILLAGED AND PLUNDERED

Jamaican Journalist, Barbara Ellington, has a totally different perspective.

“Although it appears

to be a cause célèbre around the globe, the upcoming coronation of King Charles holds no particular significance to me,” she told CT. “It is especially off-putting against the backdrop of the ongoing treatment being meted out to Prince Harry and his family, since stepping away from the Firm and exposed long hidden ills.”

“As a journalist, I will definitely watch the proceedings

for information and academic/historical interest, but I will not be celebrating Charles nor his consort’s ascension to the throne,” added Ellington. “I cannot, in good conscience support an institution or system that enslaved my ancestors, pillaged and plundered our wealth and resources, yet continues to refuse to acknowledge and apologize for the wrongs perpetuated against us.”

Pauline Russell, a British-born Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst of Jamaican heritage shared similar sentiments.

“As a person of color and being British I understand the impact of colonialism and that I will never truly be accepted as one of them,” Russell told CT. “Prior to Prince Harry’s marriage to Meghan Markle, I would have (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The official coronation of Charles, III on May 6, 2023, as King of the United Kingdom, and the Commonwealth realms, including several Caribbean countries, will be celebrated across Britain with public events, street parties, and special functions.

The crowning event, attended by other members of the Royal family, celebrities, friends, and heads of state, will mark Charles’ formal ascendancy to the throne, replacing Queen Elizabeth, II, after her death on September 8, 2022.

There are currently 54 Commonwealth nations and 12 sovereign Caribbean Island nations including: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. However, Barbados, Guyana, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago have become Republics, meaning the King is no longer their head of state but they have a president.

As of May 6th, King Charles, and Queen Camilla, will be the Royal heads of a country that benefitted from the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the head of state of former colonies: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines. Slavery and British colonization wreaked havoc on these nations and the period in history has left many with a bitter pill to swallow, including those in the Caribbean and its Diasporas.

REACTIONS

Caribbean nationals at home and in the United Kingdom have varying opinions about the Royal family and the relevance of the monarchy as sovereign of each Commonwealth realm state.

“The coronation is a continuation of an apolitical office of our government above the political fray of our opposing political parties,” expressed Bancroft Williams, a Jamaican Public Intellectual who currently lives on the island told Caribbean Today.

“Yes, I will celebrate,” added Williams “It’s a long history of stability that we really respect, and the need to ensure that our country has that political stability and respect of the office in the continuation of our changing political parties. The office is a

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BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Rain of Biblical proportions brought Fort Lauderdale to a soggy standstill on April 13th. Meteorologists estimated that 26 inches of rainfall hit parts of South Florida that day, forcing the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, schools and some businesses to close.

Dean Trantalis, mayor of Fort Lauderdale, described the historic showers as “unprecedented.” On April 22, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said he would seek a major disaster declaration for Broward County to secure federal aid for flood victims.

The dramatic drenching took place two months before the Hurricane Season and again



More than 2 feet of rain brought Fort Lauderdale to a standstill, shutting down the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International airport and stranding drivers on flooded streets on April 13, 2023, a glimpse some say of the future for South Florida and the Caribbean amid climate change.

sparked debate about climate change and the dangers of a world getting warmer. For Audrey Wright Peterman, a Jamaican environmentalist who lived in South Florida for many years, the damage done to South Florida was on the cards.

“I had a sinking feeling as I watched the storms and the deluge. I wrote about the possibility of this happening back in 2016, because as an environmentalist watching the rapid increase in development that is pouring concrete over the land we need for absorption and drainage,” she said in an interview with Caribbean Today.

“Additional concrete also increases heat, and the process of evaporation, condensation and precipitation is increasingly disturbed. The water has nowhere to go because of the foolishness of man trying to make a buck off every inch of space. And as a result, everyone is put in jeopardy,” Peterman added.

She noted that South Florida and the Caribbean are “in the bullseye for climate change effects” and believes because administrators focus on another major project in the region, they have neglected putting safety measures against unstable weather, in place.

“In 2017, after attending the conference of the Everglades Coalition of more than 40 of the top environmental groups and finding them still focused on acquiring land to restore

the Everglades (which I totally support, by the way) I became very concerned that they were not sufficiently focused on sea-level rise. I wrote the article, ‘Body Bags cloud my vision at Everglades Conference,’ and was roundly chastised by one leader,” said Peterman, who addresses the dangers of climate change in her 2019 book, ‘From my Jamaican Gully to The World And Back!’ “But that actually happened with Hurricane Ian when people were washed out to sea screaming in their homes.”

Peterman returned to Jamaica permanently four years ago, and continues to educate people there about the dynamics of changing weather patterns. Tropical storms in recent years have caused devastating land slippages in rural Jamaica, leaving many people homeless and making roads impassable.

In 2020, according to the United Nations Environment Programme, Jamaica, “became the first Caribbean country to submit a tougher climate action plan to the UN because the country was at risk from rising sea levels, drought and more intense hurricanes.”

Last September, in a speech to the United Nations, Jamaica’s prime minister Andrew Holness said Small Island Development States are in danger of being wiped out if they do not receive assistance to prevent climate shocks.

“Concerted action to slow down and halt global temperature

rise is literally a question of our survival. While we will continue to develop our own resilience and play our part in mitigating climate change, we cannot, by our action alone, change the trajectory,” Holness stated.

Similar steps are being taken in Trinidad and Tobago which experts say is warming 2.5 faster than the global average. Dire projections for the twin-island Republic and its CARICOM partners, were presented at Climate Analytics Caribbean, held April in Port of Spain.

Kishan Kumarsingh, head of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements at T&T’s Ministry of Planning and Development, recently pointed to the importance of Caribbean states living up to Nationally Determined Contributions which present plans for climate change as outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

He stressed that the T&T government has taken crucial steps to prevent runaway warming, such as:

- Procurement of 240 electric buses to further reduce emissions from the CNG initiative.
- Development of a green hydrogen roadmap, with assessment on the feasibility of wind power both onshore and offshore to power the green hydrogen economy, and.
- Development of a net zero plan consistent with the Paris Agreement to identify additional emissions reductions opportunities and actions to raise mitigation ambition.

As for Fort Lauderdale and South Florida, the historic April 13th rainfall may be an ominous sign of things to come.

“We’re going to see this kind of intensification in years to come because of climate change,” said Broward County commissioner, Beam Furr. “We may be calling it a 1-in-1,000-year event. I think that number is going to be dropping.”



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

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Thomas, between June 22, 2007, and December 21, 2008.

DOMINICA

The Dominica government has tabled several pieces of legislation that it said will correct a “historical and generational wrong” as it pertains to children born out of wedlock.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit told legislators that he believes “the series of laws therefore will offer protection for spouses in divorce, parents and grandparent unable to care for themselves, children who are abused and neglected and victims of domestic violence.” He said

the legislation provides guidance on the provision of care and security for children “so that they are assured more hopeful futures.

BVI

The Progressive Virgin Islands Movement, (PVIM) says while it is prepared to participate in the negotiations for a new government in the British Overseas Territory of the British Virgin Islands following the April 24th inconclusive general election, “we will keep our commitment to integrity, accountability and transparency.”

The island appears heading towards a coalition government after none of the parties that

contested the general election won a clear majority to take control of the 13-member parliament, according to preliminary figures released here.

The ruling Virgin Islands Party (VIP) which had won eight seats in the last general election, secured six seats this time around, while the PVIM and the National Democratic Party (NDP) each won three seats. The other seat was won by the Progressives United (PU). There were 10 independent candidates.

- Compiled from CMC and the Jamaica Observer.



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“Heirs Of Slavery” Urge Reparative Justice For Caribbean Descendants Of Slavery

A new group of people called “Heirs of Slavery” is calling on the British government to begin long-requested talks on reconciliation and reparative justice for the descendants of the 3.1 million enslaved African people transported across the Atlantic by Britain to the Caribbean.

The group includes authors, journalists, businesspeople, and a direct descendant of the Victorian Prime Minister William Gladstone. They have set up this group to support campaigns to address “the ongoing consequences of this crime against humanity.”

One of the members of the group, journalist Alex Renton, said, “British slavery was legal, industrialized and based entirely on race. Britain has never apologized for it, and its after-effects still harm people’s lives in Britain as well as in the Caribbean countries where our ancestors made money.”

The group acknowledges that their ancestors’ wealth was partly derived from



Former BBC journalist Laura Trevelyan has also apologized and offered a reparation fund to be managed by The UWI.

plantations worked by enslaved Africans, and slave-owners received compensation at British slavery’s abolition in the 1830s. For example, Rosemary Harrison’s ancestor was a slave owner and Attorney General in Jamaica in the late 18th century.

“We encourage the hundreds of thousands of people in Britain with similar family histories to explore and

acknowledge them. Until the painful legacy of slavery is recognized by the descendants of those who profited from it, there can never be healing,” said author and publisher Richard Atkinson.

The group and their families have all made private donations to tackle poverty, poor education, and other issues affecting the descendants of

the enslaved in the UK and Caribbean countries. “This group wants to move beyond personal donations, which can never be enough,” said Harrison.

In addition to supporting campaigns for institutional and national reparative justice, the group is also in conversation with British people descended from the enslaved of the Caribbean countries, and who experience racism, poverty, and inequality that derives from it. “I would like to listen and learn from the descendants of the enslaved to find out what would best help them in their lives today. Please tell us how apology and repair, led by the British nation, should work,” said retired schoolteacher Robin Wedderburn.

The group also supports the CARICOM 10 Point Plan and is encouraging the UK government and other former colonial powers to open a dialogue with CARICOM concerning the plan.

“We welcome the Dutch Government’s recent apology for the Netherlands’ historic

role in slavery and note its establishment of a reparations fund to tackle the legacy of slavery in the Netherlands and its former colonies. We cannot change the past. But we can change the consequences,” the group said.

The movement for reparative justice for descendants of enslaved Africans is gaining momentum in Europe. “Whether it’s the Dutch Government, the Church of England, or the British Royal Family, the enduring and painful legacy of slavery is finally starting to be acknowledged by those who benefited from it,” said Laura Trevelyan, a former BBC correspondent.

The Heirs of Slavery group is hoping to continue to lend their voices as heirs of those involved in the business of slavery to support campaigns for institutional and national reparative justice.

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Legendary Rights Activist Angela Davis Speaks Out On Capitalism And Slavery

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Twenty years ago, Dr. Angela Davis addressed a rapt audience at the 5th Annual Eric Williams Memorial Lecture held at Florida International University in Miami where the series began. Her talk then? ‘An indictment on ‘Slavery and the Prison Industrial Complex.’

Twenty years later, on April 4, 2023, Dr. Davis, the renowned political activist, scholar, writer, and former Black Panther member during the turbulent 1960s fighting for Black Liberation, once again stood at the dais for this year’s Eric Williams Memorial Lecture at its new home - the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. This time she took on capitalists’ greed built on the back of slavery.

To a crowd of more than 450 attendees, both in person and online for the 21st Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture, Dr. Davis delivered an impassioned plea to all Caribbean and Black people everywhere, to know their history, to embrace it, and never, ever, to allow partisan politics to negate it.

“There have been changes in the way we think about and engage and study about and organize around the numerous issues related to slavery and its afterlives,” Davis acknowledged. “Those of us who were collective

pioneers, who were scholar activists, who sought new ways of thinking about an issue that appeared to be so massive and at the same time so little recognized, were absolutely inspired by the brilliant book published in 1944 by Eric E. Williams entitled ‘Capitalism and Slavery.’”

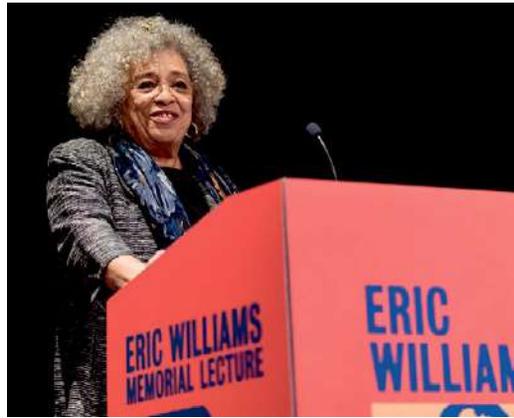
The lecture series honors the legendary Dr. Eric Williams, who became the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and led the twin-island republic to independence. His groundbreaking 1944 study, ‘Capitalism and Slavery,’ underscored the link between capitalism and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, that developed the fortunes of Britain and the United States.

It is this seminal work that Davis used as the foundation for her arguments that laid out the principles of greed and dominance these so-called first world countries utilized for power and position.

The Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz, educated her audience on the importance of Williams’ structural analysis of slavery.

She noted that the overall project of Williams’ work was to disprove the widespread assumption that the system of slavery was abolished by the British because of their humanitarian proclivities.

In other words, Davis



Dr. Angela Davis speaking at the recent Eric Williams Memorial Lecture took on capitalists’ greed built on the back of slavery. (Photograph: Courtesy of Michael Davis)

remarked, they suddenly became aware of the fact that slavery was morally wrong, and they quite rapidly moved to correct this infamy.

Hence, the primary reason slavery no longer exists, at least in the part of the world affected by the British slave trade, is because people like William Wilberforce moved to write a moral wrong, said Davis, with a look of incredulity.

THE REAL REASON

“Eric Williams argued that the real reason slavery was abolished was that it was no longer of service to capitalism as it had been during earlier periods where it played a crucial role in what Marx called primitive accumulation,” the professor said. “Capitalism does not allow you to come to

the market empty-handed. You have to start with something, and that something was provided in large part by the violence and the rampages and the pillaging that was related to slavery.”

What is interesting, said Davis, is major British publishers refused to publish ‘Capitalism and Slavery’ in 1944 when it was printed in the United States.

It did, however, have a limited print run by an independent publisher in the 1960s.

But it wasn’t until 2022, almost a century later, that the work was made available as a major mass market edition by Penguin Random House in England, and it became an immediate bestseller.

The world was not ready for the truth back in the mid-20th century, but in today’s environment of structural racism, Eric Williams’ truths resonates, said Professor Davis.

“How it is that both in this country and in many other parts of the world we have come to collectively acknowledge the presence of racism especially after a period in which there were attempts to persuade us that racism

either no longer existed or that it was on its way to being deposited in the dustbin of history?” the professor questioned.

Davis warned of becoming separated from history, from the truth that has created a capitalist system that oppresses. She stressed that those who live in the USA are the targets of an ideologically enforced historical amnesia.

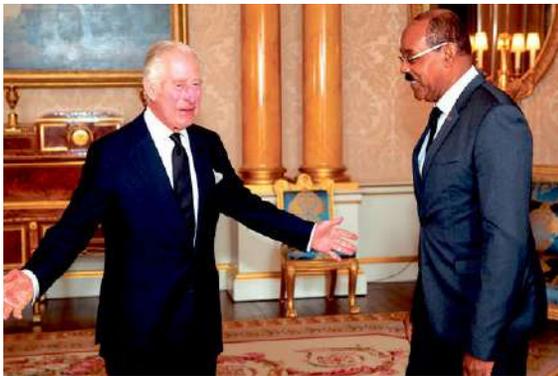
“We are not encouraged to believe that history matters,” she said. “And we certainly usually fail to perceive the degree to which we and our actions and our ideas are products of history.”

Professor Davis added: “We are not encouraged to think about what came before capitalism and we certainly don’t like to think about the processes that are responsible for the massive amounts of wealth that remains in hands that are disproportionately white and those who are relegated to poverty are disproportionately black and brown.”

Williams makes us understand, through ‘Capitalism and Slavery,’ exactly why history matters, Davis emphasized.

“It teaches us the humility of recognizing the power of socio-economic forces,” she added. “It implies that if we want to produce meaningful change, we have to understand those forces and we have to collectively figure out how to make them work in our favor, as (CONTINUED TO PAGE 7)

Is The Coronation Relevant To Caribbean Nationals?



Antigua & Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace last September. (AP image)

extravagant so that in itself says something. He could put some of the money where his mouth is and end some of the homeless issues. He will be my King, but he is of no use to me.”

Jamaican journalist Ellington couldn’t agree more.

“With the advent of social media, the shine has all but worn off the ‘ball’ of mystique in which the royal family were held,” she said. “From their disgruntled and disloyal staff to over-zealous members of the media, the world now has front row seats to all their dirty linen and Persian carpet-covered scandals.”

TIME TO LEAVE?

So, is it the right time for Caribbean countries to consider becoming a Republic and also leaving the commonwealth?

Yes, said Ellington.

“I am waiting with bated breath for the day when we become a Republic,” she said of Jamaica. “I continue to be embarrassed that little Barbados took the step before us, but we have begun the process, so I look forward to participating when my time comes.”

“I also look forward to our children being

taught their correct and accurate history that will begin to show our forefathers in their true right instead of the fake narrative they have been fed for decades. We are the real descendants of royalty,” the journalist stressed.

On the other hand, Williams points to law and the constitution if a system of government is to change.

“In terms of Barbados severing its ties, it is an affront to democracy! To have such an important change made to any country’s political structure, it should have gone to a referendum. No government should have the legal and moral authority to change the structure so engrained in the country. It should have gone to the people to make the decision,” he said. “In a democratically structured country, even if the law

does not compel it, the high moral test says you put it to the people for a vote, which is what will happen in Jamaica.”

But, if counties leave the commonwealth, then what, questioned Griffiths.

“The concern with leaving the Commonwealth is who will these countries turn to next and what will be the outcome for all of us if certain powers gain a foothold in the gap left by the UK?” Griffiths asked.

Meanwhile, Russell is not so sure who will benefit from becoming a republic.

“I’m not sure if Jamaica is ready to leave the Commonwealth. I’m in favor if this will improve the lives of all Jamaicans and not just the elite. Does Jamaica benefit from being in the Commonwealth? Not so sure,” said Russell.

Phipps added: “If a country feels it right for them so be it. Their politicians have to weigh up whether there are any economic benefits to be gained. We have seen no significant benefits to those commonwealth countries so far under the previous monarch.”

But Ellington sees no alternative. “It is time to leave the monarchy the disrespects its own subjects! That we have to pay for a visa as subjects of the King, to enter the UK, is insult enough for me and adequate reason to shout: Down with the monarchy! The time to leave the Commonwealth is overdue and as we depart, we must continue to press for

reparations as well as removing the symbols, medals, stamps, seals and other reminders of that dark and oppressive period in our history.”

Her comments come as representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago are among those set to attend the coronation.

And as a new group of people whose ancestors profited from British enslavement and the industries dependent on it, have called on the British government to begin long-requested talks on reconciliation and reparative justice for the descendants of the 3.1 million enslaved African people transported across the Atlantic by Britain to the Caribbean.

“Heirs of Slavery” includes authors, journalists, businesspeople and a direct descendant of the Victorian prime minister William Gladstone set up to support campaigns to address “the ongoing consequences of this crime against humanity.”

“British slavery was legal, industrialized and based entirely on race. Britain has never apologized for it, and its after-effects still harm people’s lives in Britain as well as in the Caribbean countries where our ancestors made money,” said journalist Alex Renton, the son of a former Conservative cabinet minister.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

been quite curious and interested to see the coronation of King Charles. However, following all the issues that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have faced I am no longer interested in the monarchy.”

British-Jamaican Patricia Phipps also cites the behavior of certain Royals as contributing factors to some of the negative reception toward them.

“I cannot get past the treatment of Diana and certainly I’m no fan of Camilla regardless of how she has tried to redeem herself in the public’s eyes,” Phipps said. “Harry is correct when he said in his book ‘she has been playing the long game’. So, I don’t have much interest in the coronation except for watching the pomp and glory on TV.”

Barbara Griffiths, another UK-based British national who boasts Vincentian and Barbadian heritage is also disappointed in the monarchy, especially its disregard for the poor class.

“The Coronation means very little to me except being an excuse to have an extra day off work and maybe meeting my neighbors that I never see, for a street party,” said Griffiths, who works with vulnerable youth, “I recognize that the Royal family are an enormous tourist attraction but they are still a drain on public funds due to the 20-plus Royal residences and all that goes with them. Even the Queen considered her boy, Charles, to be

Caribbean American Students Among Top Grads At Miami Dade College

Several students of Caribbean origin were among the top graduates at the Miami Dade College 2023 graduation ceremonies at loanDepot park on April 22nd.

The students graduated top of a class of more 14,000 students, representing 107 nationalities and over 50 different languages at three different ceremonies.

Among them were:

1: Sylus Miller

Sylus Miller's is a Bahamian American who graduated excelled at MDC Hialeah Campus, where he was the recipient of various awards and recognitions, including being named to the 2023 All-Florida Academic Team in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service to the

community in 2022.

Miller's passion for helping animals started as a child, caring for six turtles. As he fed, cleaned and learned more about the reptiles, he realized veterinary medicine was his calling. Since then, he has been diligently striving toward his ultimate goal – working as a veterinarian at a zoo or non-government organization to revitalize endangered species. Miller plans to attend the University of Florida, majoring in biology with a track in pre-veterinary medicine.

2: Akelia Hardy

Cleveland Clinic student, Jamaican born Akeila Hardy, did not allow challenges to limit her future. Initially, she struggled to find her way in college. When she was finally on track, and expecting her first child, her



More than 14,000 students walked at three Miami Dade College graduation ceremonies on April 23, 2023. (MDC.com image)

fiancé passed away. MDC faculty and staff stepped in to offer the support she needed to stay in school. Her teachers rallied around her and introduced her to Mission North Star Young Parent Program, a collegewide initiative that provides wraparound services for young parents.

Mission North Star had such an impact on her that today she is a program ambassador and has completed 64 hours of service, helping other young parents stay in school. On graduation day, proudly walked to receive a bachelor's degree in nursing.

3: Arnoudly Bossicot

Pre-Medical Technology student Arnoudly Bossicot came to MDC's North Campus as part of the inaugural class of Rising Scholars. The program, which covers tuition and fees for the first two years of college, gave her the opportunity to pursue a STEM career without worrying about incurring debt. Bossicot emigrated from Haiti with her

parents and nine siblings. Her parents' determination to provide for the family despite a language barrier always inspired her. She began writing as a hobby, which eventually led her to successfully publish four romance novels. She is now working on a book titled "For the Curvy." Arnoudly is a semifinalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. She plans to continue her studies in biology and/or biotechnology at either the University of Central Florida or Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Miami-Dade College received a \$20 million donation during its graduation ceremony from Citadel hedge fund CEO Ken Griffin. Miami Dade College says this is the donation is the largest individual gift in the school's history.

The donation will be used for the Griffin Scholarship Fund for high school graduates attending Miami-Dade College. The Griffin Scholarship Fund will help transform the lives of countless students, providing them with the financial support they need to achieve academic and personal success.

Florida Couple Kidnapped In Haiti Released



Abigail Toussaint and Jean-Dickens Toussaint, both 33, were kidnapped on March 18th near the capital Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They are now released and back in Florida.

were taken on March 18th near the capital Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They are now released. They had travelled to Port-au-Prince to visit loved ones and attend a festival but were kidnapped from a bus on March 18th by a gang who spotted suitcases on board. Another person, who was not identified, was traveling with them at the time of the incident.

Initially, the kidnapers demanded \$6,000 for the couple's release, but increased it to \$200,000 for each person after

the family paid the ransom. It is unclear if the full amount was paid. The family and their local church had called for the Toussaints' safe return and received assistance from the FBI.

The US State Department confirmed that they were aware of the situation and had issued a travel advisory, warning Americans not to travel to the country due to an uptick of gang violence, kidnapping, crime,

and civil unrest. The FBI has also urged U.S. citizens who are considering traveling to Haiti to beware of the risks.

- NewsAmericasNow.com

A Florida couple who was kidnapped while visiting family in Haiti last month, have been released by their kidnapers.

Jean-Dickens Toussaint and Abigail Michael Toussaint, both 33, were released on April 13th according to family members who spoke with NBC Miami and returned to Tamarac, Florida on Saturday, April 15th. The details of their release have not been disclosed.

The Toussaints, both 33,

Legendary Rights Activist Angela Davis Speaks Out On Capitalism And Slavery

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6) opposed to simply capitulating to them, or acting as if they did not exist."

"Indeed, the rising popularity of 'Capitalism and Slavery' in Europe is an indication of the degree to which people are recognizing that we cannot escape the forces of history," said the professor. "And some of us are recognizing that what should have happened in this part of the world over a century ago, must begin to happen now. If we ever want to extricate ourselves from the throes of racial capitalism."

She urged the audience to

read the works of other Caribbean born revolutionary intellectuals such as CLR James and Walter Rodney to fully understand the impact of power and capitalism and ways to protect ourselves.

"All of these works shape your powers of understanding the contemporary world we inhabit and more importantly, how to imagine and move along a trajectory of planetary freedom not only for humans, but for all who inhabit this very tiny speck of the universe," said the lifetime activist.

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Artwork by Erma Shin

Jamaican Women Of Florida Turns Ten

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Ten years ago, several Jamaican-born women in South Florida started a non-profit organization to celebrate their accomplishments, laud the mentors who helped them, and provide a platform for the next generation of female leaders.

Jamaican Women of Florida, (JWOF), was borne out of that desire to acknowledge and give back. And, since their official launch in October 2012, JWOF has played a significant role in the development of the young women they have nurtured.

This 10th anniversary also saw the election of the organization's new president, Janice McIntosh, one of the founding members and a pillar within the Jamaican American community. Caribbean Today sat down with McIntosh to learn more about the Jamaican Women of Florida.

Caribbean Today, (CT):

As the newly elected president, what is your vision for Jamaican Women of Florida?

Janice McIntosh, (JM):

We want to grow and expand the organization to include all Jamaicans of Florida: Jamaican-born, Jamaican descent, married to a Jamaican, or your love for Jamaica. We want all connections to each other to be meaningful and mutually beneficial.

CT: What was the impetus really for starting the organization?

JM: The brainchild was really Cheryl Wynter, Community Relations Officer at the Jamaican Consulate in Miami. And Dahlia Walker-Huntington was the first president, and she really took it to a great start. They always say there are more Jamaicans living outside of Jamaica than in Jamaica. And that coupled with the fact that we are such a powerhouse as



Janice McIntosh, one of the founding members of the Jamaican Women of Florida, (JWOF), is now its new president. (Contributed image).

it relates to culture, sports, and entertainment, and the strength of our Jamaican-ness, we felt it was a disservice to not gather a group of diasporans who share the same heritage and culture and try and make something meaningful from it. So, even

though sisterhood is at the center of what we do, charitable acts of service is really what drives our mission.

CT: So, it's been 10 years. How has JWOF evolved over that period?

JM: Ten years might seem like a long time, but it's really short in the scheme of things. With the advent of COVID, we lost about three years of just getting it all together and cementing certain things. But to be totally honest, I think how we have evolved is just our boldness in going to the forefront of things that need our attention. So, you know, we had a burn victim recently. We got a call from the consulate, and we were able to mobilize some funds for her in a short time. So, we are now seen as the organization that really

reaches out and has an impact. There are many things that we do that are not really made public. There are many charities around who will know that there is a group of Jamaican women who have service at the center of our mission. And so, there are times when we are called to assist in various acts of charity, whether it's Kiwanis or Women in Distress, or the Consulate.

CT: JWOF stages its Women's Empowerment Conference every year. The latest one was last month. Tell us about that gathering and how it impacted participants.

JM: Our speaker this year was Dr. Monique Rainford, an Immaculate High School alumnus. Dr. Rainford is a doctor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has come into a space where she is now a small fish in a big bowl. And she has just really taken a very good lens in looking at her area of specialty, OB GYN, to see trends in how black and brown women are treated. She has seen

(CONTINUED TO PAGE 10)

Calabash - A Weekend Of Literary Talent Is Back

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

A world-class literary event, the Calabash International Literary Festival is back. The free to all three-day word fest, founded in 2001 by novelist Colin Channer, poet Kwame Dawes, and producer Justine Henzell, returns this May 26-28, 2023, to Treasure Beach, Jamaica.

The festival has taken a leap 'For Word' this year after a long 5-year absence and returns under the theme: 'Onward Upward ...For Word,' reflecting the indomitable Jamaican spirit.

"It's been 5 years and a whole pandemic since the last Calabash in 2018 so we need to wake up those Calabash muscles and get them back to Olympic levels, but we are Jamaicans, so we know how to be in medal shape," an excited Henzell told Caribbean Today.

Historically, thousands pour into the sleepy little fishing village of Treasure Beach, Jamaica on the colorful corner hugged by Jakes Resort, Calabash's home since its beginnings. This year promises to be the same. The stage, a thatched-roofed open-air structure with the crystal aqua waters of the Caribbean Sea its backdrop, becomes the frame for the authors, poets, novice writers, and storytellers who freely share words from their best-sellers, up-and-coming, and yet-to-be-released work to book hungry audiences.

HEAVY HITTERS

This year's heavy hitters again represent literary talent from home and abroad. They include:

- Padma Lakshmi
- Kei Miller



Co-founder of the Calabash Festival, Justine Henzell.

- Joyce Carol Oates
- Linton Kwesi Johnson
- Xavier Navarro Aquino
- Yvonne Bailey-Smith
- Jonathan Escoffery
- Olive Senior
- Kwame Dawes,
- And many more.

In other words, be prepared to be wowed, soothed, elevated and edutained. Of course, the Calabash bookstore will be stocked with books for those who want to take home a little bit of the festival. Live music too will add to the weekend's wide array of offerings.

Putting on such a show is indeed a mammoth task shared by a host of volunteers, said the Festival's producer.

"Calabash has an amazing team of volunteers, or it could not happen," revealed Henzell. "Kwame Dawes, Colin Channer and I founded the festival back in 2001 and Kwame and I continue the mission now with a core of committed Calabashers. The team of Jakes is crucial to the success and the support of the entire Treasure Beach community is as well."

Imagine listening to the

likes of Derek Walcott, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith, Marlon James, Jamaica Kincaid, and the list goes on. These are just a few of the writers and poets that Calabash has featured over the years. Loyal literary fans are waiting with bated breath for this year's offerings as expressed by co-founder Kwame Dawes in an earlier statement.

"Some cliches are wholly necessary for they carry profound truths, and in this instance, our unexpected absence has deepened the fondness we all have for this festival," Dawes remarked. "We have not been idle in the interim, instead, we have worked hard to secure the future of our festival and to plan what we believe is a most dynamic and delightful Calabash roster. So, what we feel is gratitude for the continued faith that our audience has had in what we do."

BEST LIKKLE FESTIVAL

And Calabash certainly could not take place without the support of sponsors who believe in the concept and the benefits it brings to Jamaica and communities like Treasure Beach.

"Sponsorship for the Arts globally is a challenge, and in Jamaica it's no different. But, Calabash has sponsors who have been with us since the inception, like the Jamaica Tourist Board, and now Tourism Enhancement Fund who understand that Calabash highlights our island as a center for intellectual discourse mixed with reggae music and sea breeze, and that's very special," Henzell noted.

"This year we welcome Audible as a lead sponsor and we look forward to partnering for many years with them to create content while staging a world class literary festival, or as we say: 'the best likkle festival in the best likkle district in the best likkle country in the world,'" added Henzell.

Treasure Beach, located in the parish of St. Elizabeth is one of the South Coast's off-the-beaten-path locations. Its pristine coastline is dotted with little cottages beckoning the weary traveler to rest. So, this festival which brings thousands into the little district is a welcome economic boost to this quiet community.

Indeed, places are already booked out for the May weekend based on a search for villas in Treasure Beach. Excitement is building for the much-loved Calabash International Literary Festival that was last staged in 2018. So, come for the books, come for the poetry, come for the words riding on the sea air, come for the music, come for the love of literary talent!

"Our audience is a community, the Calabash family, who come to enjoy the experience and make memories with others," said Henzell. "Our audience is extremely diverse, and tastes and opinions vary but they share the joy of the word. We hope they are reminded that there is more that unites us than divides as a people as they leave Treasure Beach reinvigorated by all they have heard."

For the program, participants, and the festival schedule, visit calabashfestival.org.



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Immigration Will Still Be The Issue Of 2024

Immigration again looks set to take centre stage in next year's general elections as the GOP ploughs ahead with hardnosed plans going nowhere and New York City Mayor Eric Adams along with NYC lawmakers takes a jab at the Joe Biden administration on asylum seekers as May 11 approaches – the day Title 42 is expected to be lifted.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

What else is new? As another silly season comes around, immigration is still the issue at the top of the agenda according to most polls. And as usual, politicians on both sides of the aisle are continuing to present their plans on the hot button issue. House Republicans released sweeping immigration legislation recently that would tighten asylum eligibility, expand migrant family detention and crack down on the employment of undocumented workers.

The 137-page proposed bill represents the legislative response to high levels of migration on the U.S.-Mexico border from House Republicans, who have made border security a focal point of their new majority. But it's highly unlikely to make it into law. On the left, Democratic Mayor,

Eric Adams, and other New York City officials demanded that the White House back New York with concrete plans to support asylum seekers in the coming months in what is the most sternly worded rebuke of the federal government yet.

"Our national government has abandoned this city," Adams said at a press conference on Wednesday, April 19th at City Hall. "Everything we fought for is in jeopardy if we don't get this right."

Mayor Adams is calling on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to re-designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for migrants coming from Venezuela, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Sudan, South Sudan, and Cameroon, to expand access to humanitarian parole for newly arriving asylum seekers and asylum seekers already in the United States, and to increase the number of and reassign existing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers to reduce application processing times. He said all of these actions can immediately be taken by the executive branch of the federal government and without legislation being passed by Republican leaders in Congress who refuse to offer any support for the ongoing crisis.

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

also weighed in noting: "Given the partisan climate created by Republicans – it's time the administration takes the necessary steps to expedite work authorization for asylum seekers."

No word from the White House or Vice President and immigration czar Kamala Harris on the criticism but Harris was in Miami on April 21st to talk about climate change.

Fifty-eight percent of voters in seven key Electoral College battleground states disapprove of how the president is handling immigration, compared with 32 percent who approve, according to a new swing-state poll from Global Strategy Group first shared with POLITICO. And a majority of voters surveyed, at 52 percent, believe Biden is ignoring problems at the border, while 50 percent

said the president is ignoring the situation around undocumented immigrants.

Making the issue again top of the election agenda for 2024. No surprise there!

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



DRUG TESTING AND DETECTION



Exploring the latest advancements and policies

Drug testing is advancing as more states legalize medical and recreational marijuana use. What does it mean if your drug test at work comes back positive? How long can cannabis remain detectable in your system?

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Desirable



She's desirable, one who is worth his while, one who he can be interested in. It really means that she's worth the effort, still on the market and not yet on the back shelf.

It does sound a tad misogynistic, doesn't it, even bordering on sexist, but ironically, it's a woman who brought this to my attention a few weeks ago. I hadn't seen her in decades, and when I commented how the years had been good to her and that she still retained her looks, her reply was, "I'm still desirable huh?"

Okay, so who is desirable and what makes someone desirable? It's simple really, someone who catches your eye, titillates your senses, makes your desire jump, your heart



TONY ROBINSON

skip a beat and your loins leap. "Man, who is that lady, she looks desirable" In many cases it's spoken as a compliment, especially is the woman is supposedly up in age, not too youthful.

"She's married long time and divorced now with three children, but she's still desirable."

What though, are the attributes that make her desirable? First, it's looks, but

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Clarence Thomas Does Not Belong On The Supreme Court

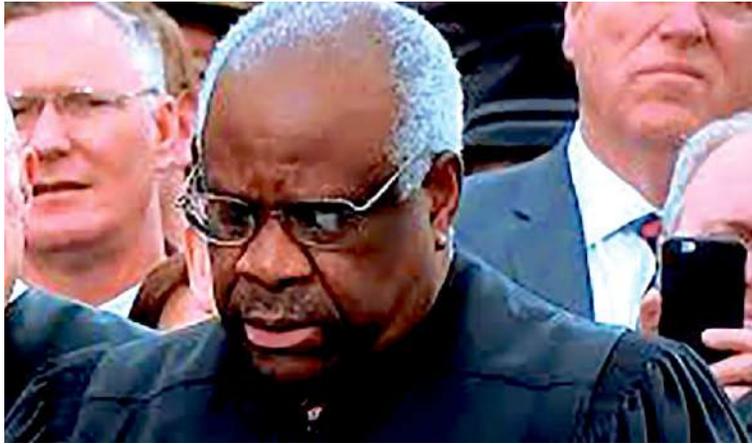
BY SVANTE MYRICK

It's been over 30 years since Justice Clarence Thomas was confirmed to the Supreme Court seat once held by the great Thurgood Marshall, and it's safe to say that his reputation for unethical behaviour - which was poor to start with and has only gotten worse.

What are we supposed to think about a justice's career that started with allegations of sexual harassment, moved on to extreme coziness with conservative political donors, then multiple instances of questionable gifts and payments to himself and his wife, and now revelations that years of free trips and perks lavished on him by right-wing billionaire Harlan Crow went unreported - despite laws that clearly say they should be?

Even after the news of Crow's largesse first broke, it got worse: Crow had also bought Thomas's mother's house in Savannah, a helpful real estate deal that Thomas never reported, either.

We could think that Thomas either doesn't know or doesn't care about the ethical standards expected of a Supreme Court justice, or the laws that apply to him as a public employee. But Thomas is a graduate of Yale Law School. Ignorance is not a believable defense here. So, we have to conclude that Thomas just doesn't care about the rules or thinks that he can ignore them. That's not the kind of person who belongs on the Supreme Court. If he wanted to do the decent and honourable thing, Thomas would admit his wrongdoing and resign. Calls for him to resign



The Justice Department has clear grounds to investigate Justice Clarence Thomas under a federal disclosure law that applies to government officials including Supreme Court justices.

are coming from pro-democracy groups including the one I lead, top media outlets, and members of Congress.

But Thomas doesn't have a history of doing the decent and honourable thing. So that means others will have to hold him accountable. The question is how.

There are plenty of calls for impeachment, but with a Republican-controlled House the option would appear to be off the table. Meanwhile the Senate will hold hearings and may call Thomas himself to testify. That is an important step. I would add that two other steps are absolutely essential right now: a Justice Department investigation and Supreme Court reform including an enforceable code of ethics.

The Justice Department has clear grounds to investigate Thomas under a federal disclosure law that applies to government officials including Supreme Court justices. The law authorizes DOJ to pursue both civil penalties and criminal

penalties from government officials who fail to report gifts as legally required.

Thomas has claimed that the generosity he received from Harlan Crow was just "personal hospitality" - not subject to reporting. Even if some of that were true, some perks, like free use of Crow's private jet for Thomas's personal travel, and the real estate transaction in Georgia are, according to most ethics experts, clearly in a different category.

The Justice Department can give a definitive answer as to whether Thomas's actions were not only unsavoury, unethical, improper and all the rest - but also absolutely illegal. And it can call for imposition of a monetary fine. Even more important than the cash fine would be the impetus a finding of guilt would give to any effort to remove Thomas.

And then, to help ensure that trust in the Court isn't further eroded by scandal after scandal, we need to have

Supreme Court reform. That means an enforceable code of ethics specifically for the Court, written to address the full range of ethical questions that could ever apply to justices' behaviour. In the longer term we should also have Supreme Court expansion, to counteract the far-right capture of the Court that was achieved by totally unethical means. But that is a larger conversation.

It has been painful to watch Thomas's corrupt behaviour and its effect on the Supreme Court. This is especially true given the historic significance of the seat he occupies. We need judges on all our courts - not just the highest -- who act with humility and who understand the impact of their decisions on everyday Americans. Courts really do

make a difference in the lives of everyday people. They should be led by trustworthy, fair-minded judges who value equality and justice, uphold the Constitution, and protect civil and human rights for all Americans.

That's not Clarence Thomas!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Svante Myrick is President of People For the American Way. Previously, he served as executive director of People For and led campaigns focused on transforming public safety, racial equity, voting rights, and empowering young, elected officials. Myrick garnered national attention as the youngest-ever mayor in New York State history.



Jamaican Women Of Florida Turns Ten

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

that there is such a disparity in how women are treated. She is now a published author, written a book about the healthcare services and how we, as women of color, need to do to look out for certain signs certain things to ensure that you don't you don't become a statistic. She is a young lady, but she's a powerhouse. The conference also featured other panelists including Judge Cymonie Rowe, Dr. Simone French, Una Morgan from Morgan Heritage, and Noelle Baldwin. What these women have is a story, which is intertwined with what they do and how they got there. And so, when we have panels that come and share their story, it is nothing but empowering and enlightening. When you come to these conferences, you might ask, what can these women share that I don't already know. But, when you see and you hear the resilience and what they fight through, you'll see it's about more power to women, and more importantly, more power to Jamaican women.

CT: Tell me about some of the other activities that Jamaican Women of Florida is involved in that positively impacts the community it serves.

JM: We have had financial wellness workshops. I believe that women of color, immigrants, we don't have the benefit of generational wealth. That was taken almost years ago, and our inheritance was stripped bare. And it is so important to equip our community with information and knowledge and know how as to how to shore up your own generational wealth for your children and your children's children. Whether it's budgeting, what invest in, who to invest in and where, that has really been empowering.

Another thing that we also talk about a lot is wellness. Because, even though we talk about the strength of women and women bearing the most, sometimes we neglect to take care of ourselves. So, wellness, diet, exercise, meditation, just taking time for yourself, those have really been the most powerful workshops that we have had.

CT: JWOF instituted a scholarship fund from early on. Tell me about it and how it has helped young female hopefuls.

JM: On average we have given out about two per year. Currently we've given over \$100,000 in scholarship. One of the things that we try to engender is to pass the baton. We have a mentorship committee, and these the women mentor the young folks, and in turn those young people mentor others. It really is good to see them involved in JWOF and giving back.

CT: Why should Jamaican American and women of Jamaican heritage join JWOF?

JM: Jamaican women of Florida is a unique group. The common thread is being Jamaican. The Jamaican-ness in us is what we have taken from our culture. It's looking at our national heroes like Nanny of the Maroons. It's looking at our leaders. It's looking at the pioneering efforts of Jamaican woman who have really excelled. We're trying to bottle this and we're trying to inspire a generation of women to really take what we have to the next level. We have a mantra: "We are the Jamaican woman of Florida, and we believe together we have the power to do anything". We really and truly want to make a difference in the lives of the people that we touch.



Desirable

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

not only looks, for some women are beautiful but not desirable. Men are visual creatures, and what he sees is what he likes, and if he likes what he sees, then that's desirable. "The first time I laid eyes on her my heart went flip flop."

But there are other attributes that make a woman desirable, such as sensuality. Too many women call down age upon themselves and shed all vestiges of sensuality that they once had. They dress dowdy like old church sisters, or like retired country schoolteachers, and have no sensuality or sexuality at all. Those are the undesirables, and they repel men more effectively than pepper spray. "I wouldn't even give her a second look, she's so undesirable."

Do you think that when she gets up to speak in parliament, or gives that lecture at the university, or defends that man in court, or even speaks at the pulpit, that men don't think, "She looks fine, very desirable."

It has its genesis in desire and no matter how you may want to sweep it under the carpet, it's a reality that men experience every day of their lives. The secret irony is, most women seem to love the idea of being desirable, even though they might not admit to it publicly. Remember, women spend half of their time trying to look attractive to men. "Imagine, I was in the supermarket and this man told me how attractive I looked."

This applies even to the mothers and aunts of friends of yours. You may meet your friend's mother for the first time and get blown away, smitten by how desirable she looks.

But in the same way that some women can remain desirable, it's the very same way that they can make that quantum leap to being undesirable. Back in the day she used to be a fox, more than enticing intriguing, inviting, attractive. But somewhere along the way, that luster was lost, the shine came off the ball, the

crackers lost its crunch and what was once desirable, now became undesirable.

Nobody wants someone who calls down age upon themselves. "Boy, she's only forty-five but acts as if she's seventy-five, very undesirable." Now I'm sure that many persons, mostly women will take offence to what I'm saying about being desirable or not, but I am not the originator or author of the concept, just the harbinger of tidings.

Strangely, I haven't heard many women refer to men as being undesirable. A man can cruise through life and still be on the market even while up in age.

The word desire connotes desirability, lusting after, wanting, perceived and potential availability. So, tell me, do you want to be classed as desirable or not?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com.



A Caribbean American Legend Is No More

WRITTEN BY
HOWARD CAMPBELL
EDITED BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Caribbean American actor, singer and activist, Harry Belafonte, who died on April 25, 2023, at age 96 in New York City, was a member of an August group of black Americans with West Indian heritage.

Along with fellow actor Sidney Poitier, Muslim leader Malcolm X, military leader/politician Colin Powell and legislator Shirley Chisholm, he was a tireless fighter against discrimination and inequality in the United States.

BORN IN HARLEM

Belafonte was born on March 1, 1927, in Harlem, New York to a Martinique born father, Harold George Bellanfanti Sr., and a Jamaican mother, Melvine Love. His father worked as a chef while his mother was a dress maker.

His mom – who was not authorized to live in the US – later changed the family name to Belafonte to avoid the immigration authorities.

At age five, he moved to Kingston, Jamaica's capital, where he lived for eight years with his mother, his brother Dennis and her family. There he attended Wolmer's Boys School. He did not return to the US until he was 13.

Upon returning to New York City in 1940, he attended George Washington High School after which he joined the Navy and served during World War II. Belafonte's Caribbean roots would play a significant role in shaping his identity and his career.

In the 1940s, he was working as a janitor's assistant when a tenant gave him, as a gratuity, two tickets to see the American Negro Theater.

CAREER

He fell in love with the art form and began taking classes in acting at the Dramatic Workshop of The New School in New York with the influential German director Erwin Piscator alongside Caribbean born actor Sidney Poitier, Marlon Brando, Tony Curtis, Walter Matthau and Bea Arthur, while performing with the American Negro Theater.

MUSIC

To pay for his acting classes, Belafonte started his career in music as a club singer in New York. His time in Jamaica helped Belafonte develop a lifelong appreciation for West Indian culture, which can be heard on Calypso, his 1956 album that contains the signature songs, 'Day-O,' (The Banana Boat Song), 'Island in the Sun,' and 'Jamaica Farewell.'

The first time he appeared in front of an audience, he was



Harry Belafonte – 1927-2023, was awarded the Order of Jamaica in 2017, the country's fifth-highest honour for his relentless contributions to the arts and as an activist.

backed by the Charlie Parker band, which included Charlie Parker himself, Max Roach and Miles Davis, among others.

ACTING

In 1953 Belafonte made his film debut in Bright Road, playing a school principal. The following year he was the male lead (but did not sing) in the musical 'Carmen Jones,' alongside co-star Dorothy Dandridge. The film was a huge success, and it led to a starring role in the film Island in the Sun (1957), which also featured Dandridge. He produced the film Odds Against Tomorrow (1959), in which he starred. He also starred in the TV special Tonight with Belafonte (1959), a revue of African American music; Belafonte won an Emmy Award for his work on the show.

ACTIVISM

Belafonte was a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Baptist minister who led the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. He was with King at the ground breaking march on Washington DC in August, 1963 and supported his cause well after his assassination in April, 1968.

King's daughter, Berniece, Bernice King, recalled Belafonte's compassion in a tweet shortly after his death. She said he, "showed up for my family in very compassionate ways."

"In fact, he paid for the babysitter for me and my siblings," she added.

The New York Times, in an obituary written by Peter Keepnews, hailed Belafonte as a "trailblazer."

"At a time when segregation was still widespread and Black faces were still a rarity on screens large and small, Mr. Belafonte's ascent to the upper echelon of show business was historic," Keepnews noted. "He was not the first Black entertainer to transcend racial boundaries; Louis Armstrong,

Ella Fitzgerald and others had achieved stardom before him. But none had made as much of a splash as he did, and for a few years no one in music, Black or white, was bigger."

Jamaica's prime minister Andrew Holness also praised Belafonte who visited the country many times.

"Harry Belafonte was not only a talented artist but also a fearless activist who dedicated his life to the struggle for civil rights and social justice," said Holness. "He was a trailblazer who paved the way for generations of artistes and activists to come, and his legacy will live on. On behalf of the people of Jamaica, I extend our

deepest condolences to Harry Belafonte's family and loved ones. We will never forget his contributions to our country and the world, & we will continue to honour his memory."

In 2018, Belafonte was awarded the Order of Jamaica, the country's fifth-highest honour for his relentless contributions to the arts and as an activist.

A lifelong Democrat, Belafonte was a vocal critic of Republican presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George Bush. He also had harsh words for conservative

black leaders such as Powell and Condoleezza Rice, both secretaries of State, whom he likened to house slaves.

The music legend made headlines again in 2016 after the campaign of (at the time) presidential hopeful Donald Trump lit a fire under the civil rights activist. He served as co-chair for the national Women's March protest against Trump in 2017.

When he was interviewed at the time, Belafonte said, "I'm playing a role that I feel equipped and I feel knowledgeable about. I'm going to be 90 years old in a couple of weeks, and I think that to be of mind and capacity to be able

to still contribute to helping to make our union a better place, to help our country become a better place, is a joyous task."

Belafonte's star soared simultaneously with that of Poitier, whose parents were from The Bahamas. Their careers took off in the 1950s when Malcolm X, whose mother was from Grenada; and Chisholm, born to Guyanese/Barbadian parents, began making a mark as activists.

In the 1970s, Belafonte was associated with Jamaica's socialist prime minister Michael Manley and Cuba's communist president, Fidel Castro. He shared common ground with both leaders on the anti-colonial movement in Africa and was a vociferous opponent of Apartheid in South Africa.

Film director Spike Lee, who directed Belafonte in 2018's Black Klansman, his final role, called on the black community to show reverence for its heroes.

"May God Have My Dear Friend HARRY BELAFONTE At A Peaceful Rest. We Are Losing Our Giants Left And Right. We Have To Celebrate Our Elders While They Are With Us," wrote.

Harry Belafonte, who was married three times, is survived by his third wife Pamela Frank, four children, and eight grandchildren.



Reggae's Buju, Hip Hop's Snoop Celebrate 4/20 With New Track

Jamaican born Grammy-winning Reggae legend Buju Banton has teamed up with Hip Hop icon Snoop Dogg for a new collaboration on 4/20, titled "High Life."

The track, which features the two artists trading verses over a classic reggae beat, is a celebration of their love for cannabis and the joy it brings to their lives.

Banton and Snoop have both been vocal advocates for the legalization of marijuana and have frequently referenced its use in their music. "High Life" is the latest in a string of collaborations between the two artists, who previously worked together on the 2012 track "Differentology (Remix)." Speaking about the new song, Banton said, "I'm excited to be working with Snoop again and to be putting out a song that



Buju and Snoop light it up on 'High Life.'

celebrates the positive aspects of cannabis use. We wanted to create a feel-good track that people can vibe to and enjoy, and I think we achieved that with 'High Life'."

Snoop added, "Working with Buju is always a pleasure, and this track is no exception. 'High Life' is all about living your best life and enjoying

the moments that matter, and that's a message we can all get behind."

"High Life" is now available to stream now on all major platforms.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Contemporary Visual Artist Kandy G. Lopez Along With Buju Banton, Sting, Shaggy For St. Lucia Jazz Fest

This year's St. Lucia Jazz Fest will be unique, spotlighting not only on the music of Buju Banton and Shaggy but contemporary visual artist Kandy G. Lopez.

Lopez is an Afro-Caribbean American portrait artist who uses her art to identify, celebrate, and tell the stories of marginalized individuals and people of color. Her work showcases the cultural heritage of her people, telling nostalgic tales of immigration, vulnerability, and self-confidence. According to Lopez, her art is meant to engage, provoke, test, and educate, and it should be included in the history of art.

Lopez's recent creations have been laudable and distinct, as she has been experimenting with portraits using yarn and thread. Her art is constantly inspired by a person or image before the whole picture is brought to life. Her most prized pieces of art are "Orlando" and "As I See Me." "As I See Me" was one of her first realistic self-portraits, given as an assignment during her university days. The concept was to elevate women of color, positioning them as powerful and prestigious, not from a place of arrogance or pride. Meanwhile, "Orlando" was a portrait of her brother that radiates how she saw her brother from a bird's eye view, showing the vulnerability in men of color, the softness, and fragility of the Afro Caribbean American male.

Lopez's journey through life and the world of art is a source of inspiration to every individual from marginalized groups or communities with a dream to succeed. Her story, grit, and passion are one of a



Kandy Lopez

kind and should be celebrated. She obtained a Masters degree in Fine Art (Painting) from the Florida Atlantic University in 2014 and loves teaching and grooming the next generation of artists. She has been awarded four residencies within the last two years and has recently participated in Project Row Houses in Houston, TX. Lopez will be showcasing her work at the 2023 St. Lucia Jazz & Art Festival, joining other artists and musicians from around the world. The festival has evolved into an internationally recognized festival rooted in its Acoustic, Jazz, R&B, Southern Jazz, Afro-Caribbean, and Afrobeats elements. The art rebranding

experience has made this year's edition the 10th year since art was infused into the festival,

showcasing the talents of various artists from around the world.

The St. Lucia Jazz & Art Festival has been ranked as the #1 festival by E! Entertainment, #2 in Caribbean festivals after the Trinidad & Tobago festival and named one of the top five best festivals in the world by festival mogul George Wein. The festival has been a haven of music, art, and tourist attraction for over 25 years, attracting culture lovers from around the world.

The musical line up is as follows:

Friday, May 5 – Kick-Off: Caribbean genres with some of the biggest names from the region headlined by reggae superstar Shenseea and Kes the Band.

May 6-9 – Entertainment & Community Jazz: Explore authentic Saint Lucian culture and people through an eclectic mix of local events.

Wednesday, May 10 – Kingdom Gospel Night: A

riveting, inspiring showcase of praise and worship with some of the best names in Gospel Music, to be announced later.

Thursday, May 11 – Pure Jazz: Grammy winner, pianist, and composer Gustavo Casenave and a special tribute to Saint Lucia's Luther François, the godfather of Saint Lucia jazz.

Friday, May 12 – Caribbean Fusion: Featuring Buju Banton, Bunji Garlin, and Fay Ann Lyons.

Saturday, May 13 – World Beats: Journey the globe with the best Afro beats with Rema, Ayra Starr, CKay, and Kizz Daniel.

Sunday, May 14 – The Ultimate Celebration and Culmination on Mother's Day: The most distinctive and influential musician of the century, 17-time Grammy Award winner Sting, will headline the evening with Shaggy.



Acclaimed Jazz Trumpeter Jean Caze To Celebrate Haitian Heritage Month

Acclaimed Jazz Trumpeter Jean Caze is gearing up to celebrate the vibrant culture of Haiti as the Pompano Beach Arts kicks off Haitian Heritage Month with a lineup of exciting events. The month-long celebration will showcase the richness and diversity of Haitian artistry, from music and dance to poetry and film.

The event will feature a free concert by Jean Caze on **May 26, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.** at



Jean Caze

Ali Cultural Center. Caze is a prodigious talent in the world of jazz, having toured with Michael Bubl  and played alongside renowned musicians such as Herbie Hancock, Najee, Arturo Sandoval, John Fadis, Randy Brecker, and Bob Mintzer. He has also performed with the legendary rock group "Chicago" and opened for the Wynton Marsalis Quartet.

Caze's music is known for its original blend of Haitian American styles, drawing inspiration from Rara, Konpa, Racine, and American backbeats. His latest CD, Amed , features

a fusion of Haitian American musical styles and highlights the Queen of Haitian song, Emeline Michel, among other talented artists.

Ty Tabing, the Cultural Affairs Director, expressed the city's honor in celebrating the vibrant Haitian culture through an array of thrilling events, including paintings, dance, music, film, poetry, and more. The city's website, pompanobeacharts.org, provides a full lineup of events for Haitian Heritage Month.



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NOW ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS!

Four Caribbean American Restaurants Make New York Times Top 100 NYC List

The New York Times' list of the 100 best restaurants in New York City now includes four restaurants with a Caribbean focus. They include a Trinidadian, a Jamaican and two Puerto Rican focused restaurants. They are:

1: La Piraña Lechonera

Coming in at number 5 on the Times 100 list is the Puerto Rican Restaurant, La Piraña Lechonera, located at 766 East 152nd Street in the South Bronx, The Bronx. The restaurant made the list for its fried pastelillos filled with shrimp in a red sofrito; golden Frisbees of salt-cod fritters known as bacalaítos; and octopus salad that crunches with raw peppers and salty olives as well as hulking cuts of lechón, slowly roasted pork rubbed with oregano and black pepper.

2: Forever Jerk

Ranking at 62nd on the list is the Jamaican restaurant, Forever Jerk, at 100 New Jersey Avenue and East New



Puerto Rican restaurant La Piraña Lechonera ranked at number 5 out of 100.

York, Brooklyn. The Times raves about the mobile, charcoal-fired, custom-built monster rigs that Forever Jerk sets up on sidewalks in Brooklyn and the Bronx to turn out shrimp that is juicy and brushed with spices and chicken and jerk pork.

3: 188 Bakery Cuchifritos

Coming in at 65th is the Puerto Rican/Dominican bakery, 188 Bakery Cuchifritos at 158 East 188th Street, Fordham Heights

in The Bronx. The Times raves about the The chicharrones, insanely crunchy bronzed pork rinds that you can dress with pickled jalapeños and raw garlic sauce as well as the mofongo, chuletas, morcilla, Cubano, and morir soñando, a sweet drink of condensed milk with squeezed-to-order orange juice.

4: Ali's Trinbago Roti Shop

Ali's Trinbago Roti Shop, the Trinidadian and Tobagonian

Caribbean restaurant at 1267 Fulton Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn came in at 88 on the list. The Times lauded Ali's Trinbago Roti Shop for its flaky, crumbly

and pillowy roti, aka "buss up shut."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival New York Postponed

Organizers of the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival New York have announced that the 2023 event will be postponed. After a decade of hosting the outdoor family event in southeastern Queens, the organizers have decided to take a break to regroup and improve future events.

Festival has become a staple of summer fun for many families in southeast Queens, providing an opportunity for residents to experience the flavours, culture, and music of Jamaica. The festival features a variety of food vendors, live performances, and family-friendly activities.

According to Eddy Edwards, Managing Partner of Jamaican Jerk Festival NY, LLC, the promoters of the event in association with VP Records, the decision was made to deliver an affordable and wholesome family event of the highest quality for all patrons, sponsors, and stakeholders. "We have worked each year to improve on what's already been achieved and will use this time to improve our future events," stated Edwards.

Although the New York event has been postponed, fans of Jamaican Jerk Festival can still look forward to a 'Jerk' filled experience at the Florida Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Miramar Regional Park. The festival organizers have promised to release further details about the Florida event through social media channels and the festival's website, jerkfestival.com, in the coming weeks.

The Grace Jamaican Jerk



Bardstown Bourbon And Foursquare Rum Team Up

Bardstown Bourbon Company, a Kentucky-based distillery, has announced its latest collaboration with Foursquare Rum, a Barbados-based rum producer. The collaboration will celebrate the unique blend of bourbon and Barbadian rum, combining two of the world's most beloved spirits.



The new Bardstown Bourbon Foursquare rum

The collaboration will feature a limited-edition release of a 10-year-old bourbon finished in Foursquare rum barrels. The bourbon is expected to have a unique flavour profile that combines the rich and complex flavours of bourbon with the fruity and spicy notes of Barbadian rum.

Bardstown Bourbon Company is known for its innovative approach to bourbon production, using modern technology and traditional techniques to create exceptional bourbons. Foursquare Rum is a renowned producer of fine Barbadian rums, with a reputation for excellence and craftsmanship.

The collaboration between the two companies is expected to result in a truly exceptional product that will appeal to bourbon and rum enthusiasts alike. The limited-edition release is set to be available in select markets in the US, Europe, and Asia later this year.

Bardstown Bourbon Company's CEO, Mark Erwin, expressed his excitement for the

that can happen when two great spirits come together."

The announcement of the collaboration has already generated excitement among bourbon and rum enthusiasts, who are eagerly anticipating

the release of the limited-edition bourbon later this year. The collaboration between Bardstown Bourbon Company and Foursquare Rum is a testament to the power of innovation and creativity in the

world of spirits and is sure to be a hit with connoisseurs around the world.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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HEALTH



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Florida Surgeon General Altered Key Findings In Study On Covid-19 Vaccine Safety

A newly obtained document reveals that Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo personally altered a state-driven study on Covid-19 vaccines to suggest that some doses pose a significantly higher health risk for young men than had been established by the broader medical community. Ladapo's changes, released as part of a public records request, presented the risks of cardiac death to

be more severe than previous versions of the study. He later used the final document in October to bolster disputed claims that Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were dangerous to young men.

The surgeon general, who is known to be a Covid-19 vaccine skeptic, faced a backlash from the medical community after he made the assertions, which go against guidance

from the Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics. Researchers with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and University of Florida, who viewed Ladapo's edits on the study and have followed the issue closely, criticized the surgeon general for making the changes. One researcher said it appears Ladapo altered the study out of political, not scientific, concerns.

The newly released draft of the eight-page study initially stated



A newly obtained document reveals that Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo personally altered a state-driven study on Covid-19 vaccines.

“Dr. L’s Edits,” as the document is titled, reveal that Ladapo replaced that language to say that men between 18 and 39 years old are at high risk of heart illness from two Covid vaccines that use mRNA technology. Ladapo has now said revisions and refinements are a normal part of assessing surveillance data and that he has the appropriate expertise and training to make those decisions. He also said that he determined the study was worthwhile since “the federal government and Big Pharma continue to misrepresent risks associated with these vaccines.”

- *Rewritten from Politico*



that there was no significant risk associated with the Covid-19 vaccines for young men. But

Brilliant Ways To Fight Allergens This Season

During allergy season, having a safe haven from the triggers that make you sneeze and wheeze is essential. While you can't completely control your surroundings in the great outdoors, you can take steps at home to reduce allergens and feel your best.

• Fresh, Cool Air

The right air conditioning unit can help you breathe better indoors. For example, the Midea U delivers a cold airflow that can be felt up to 20 feet away and features full DC inverter technology to rapidly cool a room. Its removable and washable air filter is easily cleaned to help reduce dust and pet allergens in the air. And thanks to its U-shaped design, you can easily open and close your windows even when the unit is installed, giving you more control of your indoor air quality and environment. Bonus -- it's compatible with Alexa and Google Assistant and is Energy Star-certified and ultra-quiet.

• Smart Steps

When you get home from spending time outdoors, take

off outer layers that have made contact with pollen, such as jackets and shoes. Having a mud room or other area to remove and store these items, preferably attached to or close to your laundry room, will help you avoid tracking and spreading allergens throughout your home.

• Screened Doors And Windows

Even if you suffer from allergies, you may enjoy throwing open your windows on a nice day for a cross breeze. Just be sure all the screens on your windows and doors are in good condition and free of tears and holes. Special pollen-blocking screens are easy to install and go a step further than standard insect screens to keep out smaller, particulate matter, including pollen, dust and other small irritants and allergens.

• Whole-Home Cleaning

Regular vacuuming will make a world of difference in the way you feel. For maximum relief, use a vacuum with complete seal HEPA filtration. This means it's EPA-certified to do the job, based on the standard test

method, which indicates it can trap 99.9% of dust, dander and allergen particles 0.3 microns and larger. The Innova Upright Vacuum, for example, targets these particles and facilitates whole-home cleaning. Thanks to its detachable accessories and components, and LED user interface, you can optimize your cleaning for every surface, including hard floor, carpet and upholstery, curtains, the space under furniture and stairs. And if you're a pet parent, you can expect a deeper, more efficient clean and longer operation due to its dual-action brush roll that actively prevents pet hair tangles and clogs from forming while concentrating air flow. It also has a motorized anti-tangle pet tool that effectively removes hair and debris from stairs and upholstery.

There is no need to suffer in your own home this season. With some smart strategies and the right tools, you can keep allergens at bay indoors.

- *StatePoint*



Look Out For New COVID-19 Variant 'Arcturus'

A new COVID-19 variant called Arcturus, which doctors say is a version of Omicron, is now spreading through the United States. In response, a new bivalent vaccine was approved in September 2022, specifically targeting Omicron. Unlike the previous monovalent vaccines, this new vaccine combines Part A and Part B and is given all at once.

Dr. Vesta Sandoval explained that the bivalent vaccine offers protection against the newest variant and prevents hospitalization more than half the time. If you've received the bivalent shot, you don't need to get another one even after four to six months.

Dr. Denise Gonzales added that anyone with a normal immune system over the age of 12 and no increased risk factors is considered fully vaccinated. Exceptions are for those who have certain risk factors, such as those who are 65 and older or immunocompromised, who should get a second dose of the bivalent booster after four to six months.

If you're not sure whether you're at increased risk or whether you should get a second bivalent vaccine, Dr. Sandoval and Dr. Gonzales advise you to



New COVID-19 Variant 'Arcturus'

contact your health provider. For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

- *Rewritten from koat.com*



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HIT & RUN FATALITY



VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN

Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

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

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

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

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

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

ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armerendariz 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.

New Airline Routes Open Up Exciting Possibilities For Travelers To The Caribbean

The Caribbean has long been a popular destination for tourists from around the world, thanks to its beautiful beaches, vibrant culture, and year-round sunshine. Now, travellers have even more reasons to visit, as a number of new airline routes have recently been added to the region. These routes not only make it easier to reach your favourite Caribbean destinations, but also open up exciting new possibilities for travel. Here are just a few of the new airline routes that you should know about.

American Airlines – New Routes to the Bahamas

American Airlines has recently added several new routes to the Bahamas, including flights to Nassau from Charlotte, Chicago, and Philadelphia. They have also added new routes to Exuma, Long Island, and Eleuthera. These new

routes provide more options for travellers looking to explore the beauty of the Bahamas beyond the popular tourist destinations.

JetBlue – New Flights to Barbados and Saint Lucia

JetBlue has expanded its service to the Caribbean with new flights to Barbados and Saint Lucia. They now offer non-stop service to these destinations from New York, Boston, and Fort Lauderdale. These new flights make it easier than ever to escape to the sunny shores of the Caribbean.

Southwest Airlines – New Flights to Puerto Rico

Southwest Airlines has added several new routes to Puerto Rico, including flights from Chicago, Dallas, and Houston to San Juan. This makes it easier for travellers from the Midwest and Texas to reach this popular Caribbean

destination.

Delta Airlines – New Flights to Grenada

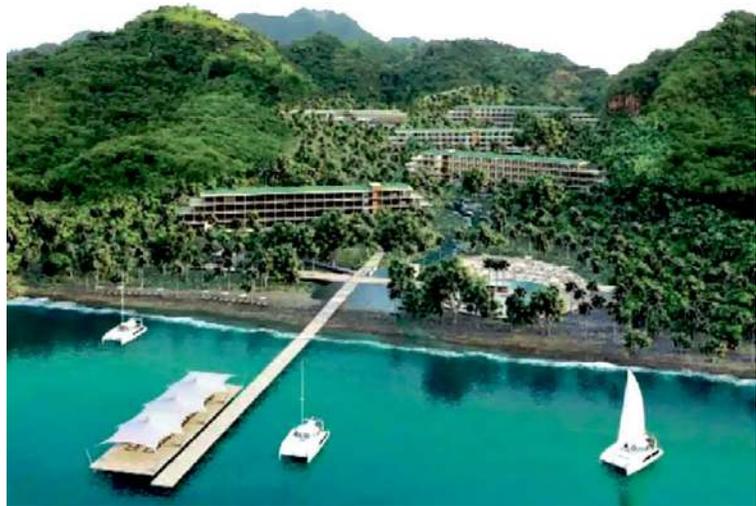
Delta Airlines has added a new flight to Grenada from New York, providing a convenient option for travellers looking to visit this beautiful island. With its stunning beaches and unique culture, Grenada is a must-visit destination for any Caribbean traveller.

These are just a few of the new airline routes that have been added to the Caribbean in recent months. With more airlines and routes than ever before, it's easier than ever to explore this tropical paradise. Whether you're looking for a relaxing beach vacation or an adventurous escape, the Caribbean has something to offer everyone. So, book your flights, pack your bags, and get ready to explore all that this beautiful region has to offer.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Construction Set To Begin Soon On St. Vincent's First Marriott Hotel



Artist rendering of the new SVG Marriott.

Construction of St. Vincent's first Marriott hotel is set to begin in the coming months, with work expected to start in June or July. The hotel, which will be located in the capital city of Kingstown, is expected to bring a significant boost to the country's tourism industry.

The Marriott hotel will be built on the site of the former Cable and Wireless building, which was destroyed in a fire in 2002. The hotel will have 150 rooms and will offer a range of amenities for guests, including a restaurant, a bar, and a swimming pool.

The project is being developed by the Caribbean Developers (St. Vincent) Limited, a joint venture between local investors and Marriott International. The developers have said that the project will

create jobs and help to stimulate economic growth in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In a statement, the developers said, "We are excited to bring the Marriott brand to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and to contribute to the growth of the country's tourism industry. The hotel will offer world-class amenities and services, and we believe it will be a great asset to the local community."

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is known for its natural beauty, with pristine beaches, lush rainforests, and crystal-clear waters. The country has a rich cultural heritage and is home to a vibrant music scene, making it an attractive destination for travellers.

- NewsAmericasNow.com

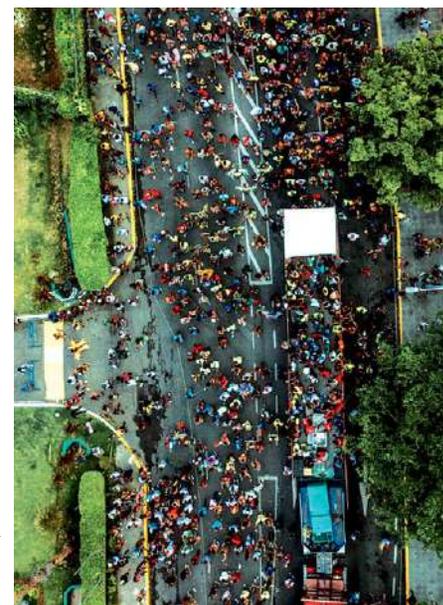


Carnival Attracts Thousands To Jamaica

Carnival, held in Jamaica from April 1-20th, attracted over 26,000 visitors to Kingston according to the Jamaica Tourist Board. Preliminary data shows there were over also 8,000 revellers and 50,000 spectators.

"These numbers, while just shy of what would have been achieved before the pandemic, are very positive for the growth of the event and its economic benefits. It also speaks to the unifying element that music can achieve with both revellers and spectators all enjoying the fun. Carnival 2024 is expected to keep getting bigger and the Jamaica Tourist Board plans to capitalize on the marketing opportunities," said JTB Director Donovan White continued.

Following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Carnival in Jamaica returned in 2023 with the ultimate carnival



A section of the Carnival in Jamaica Road March Parade held recently in Kingston. (JTB image)

experience in Ocho Rios and Kingston. The main event, the Road March, took place in Kingston on Sunday, April 16, to a sea of bands in costumes and spectators.



Caribbean Airlines Resumes Flights To Venezuela

Caribbean Airlines Limited has announced the resumption of flights to Caracas, Venezuela from May 13, 2023.

Initially, the flights will operate every Saturday with increased frequency expected later on. This move marks a significant step forward for the airline as it continues to connect the Caribbean region and provide added value to its

customers.

Garvin Medera, CEO of Caribbean Airlines, expressed his excitement at the airline's continued growth and commitment to the Caribbean region. With the largest network in the region, Caribbean Airlines is committed to offering convenience to its passengers, allowing them to fly within and to and from the Caribbean with

ease.

"The Caribbean is our home, and we are dedicated to connecting our people and communities. Caribbean Airlines is poised for growth, and we are delighted to resume flights to Caracas and to provide reliable and convenient travel options for our valued customers," he said.





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FEATURE



Fun And Affordable Summer Camp Offers You Should Know

It's that time of year, where parents are starting to think about summer camps. Here are some you should know of in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

MIAMI DADE

Miami-Dade County Parks
Miami-Dade County Parks is offering an exciting range of fun and affordable summer camps for kids. This year, instead of spending hours in front of the TV or playing video games, children can enjoy fresh air, outdoor activities, and the chance to make new friends while staying active and fit.

The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department is offering General Program Camps, Children's Trust and Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion (TRI) camps from June 12th to August 4th at 30 conveniently located parks across the county. The camps will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with early drop-off and late pick-up options available. The camps offer a fully supervised recreational schedule, including fitness activities, sports, arts and crafts, nature encounters, quiet games, and field trips. Children will also learn about

eco-friendly behaviours that are beneficial for the environment, such as recycling and water conservation.

The camps are inclusive to children with disabilities, and TRI camps are exclusively for people with disabilities. Some of these programs are fee-based, while others are funded by The Children's Trust.

Registration for General Program Camps is available online, with a cost of \$45 per week plus a non-refundable \$15 registration fee. Siblings will receive a 10% discount. Registration for The Children's Trust Camp is in person, with a non-refundable registration fee of \$15 per child required.

For more information, visit the Miami-Dade Parks website.

Miami Dade College

From animation to learning CSI techniques, MDC's summer camps offer unique variety, quality and fun. Open to kids, tweens and teens, the camps will be available online and in-person at various MDC campuses. This year's highlights include CSI, Teen Entrepreneurship, Technology, Teens College, and the popular Summer OnScreen camp, a diverse virtual experience for kids and teens. Other virtual

options are GenCyber of South Florida, Next Tech Generation and a Virtual Creative Writing Summer Camp. To register and to view a complete list of summer camps visit mdc.edu/summercamps.

AileyCamp Miami

Each summer up to 100 Miami-Dade County students ages 11 to 14 are selected for a full scholarship to a six-week program that transforms lives; a summer day camp where middle school students are immersed in dance as a physical activity that, in addition to expanding aesthetic awareness, fosters athletic ability and skills demanded. As a result, campers increase confidence, self-esteem, leadership skills and enjoy a variety of social activities. Prior dance training is not a consideration for admission. AileyCamp Miami 2023 will be held in person at the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts between June 20 and July 29. Applications are now open, visit arshtcenter.org.

BROWARD

Broward Center Summer Theater Camp

Two sessions are available at Broward Center in Fort Lauderdale, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center in Aventura and the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. Youths can see old friends and make new ones, be taught by professional performing arts teachers, and have fun putting on an show on the Amaturio stage. The camp offers students the chance to study singing, dancing and acting while rehearsing for a theatrical production culminating in a final performance on stage at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. As part of enrolment, each camper will receive a Summer Theater Camp 2023 T-Shirt and cast photo. visit

theater-camp.

Summer At The Y

Campers make friends, have fun, get active and discover who they are and what they can achieve, whether through singing or swimming, through sports or dance, or field trips or social activities, to help them grow as individuals and leaders. Programs will participate in Project Based Learning and support summer learning loss in core subjects such as reading math and science. Programs are in partnership with Broward County Schools and The Children's Services Council of Broward County. Visit ymcasouthflorida.org.

PALM BEACH

Kravis Center Arts Camp

Take a group of talented and imaginative kids ages 9-11 who share a common interest in the performing arts and put them in an environment where they can nurture their creativity and the result is Arts Camp. Under the guidance of professional teaching artists, campers will explore acting, dance, technical theater and vocal music, which will culminate in an original showcase performance. Classes are June 5-23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon-Fri (extended care is available). Visit kravis.org. Everglades Youth Conservation Camp

A residential (sleep away) summer camp, with all programs beginning each week on Sunday and concluding Friday. Programs designed to provide campers with a different outdoor experience, as campers spend 3 to 4 hours each day engaged in program activities with the rest of the day allotted to general outdoor skill activities including swimming, paddle sports, fishing, and archery. You will be able to select one program per week for your camper within the online registration portal. Program selection is based on your child's grade level for the 2022 2023 school year. Campers can register for up to two weeks of camp; however, the weeks of attendance may not be consecutive. Visit fyccn.org/eycc-summercamp.

Armory Arts Center Summer Art Experience

Create, learn, and mix for an exciting week filled with high quality art education, art excursions that complement weekly themes and techniques, hands-on exploration of various creative, diverse techniques, and opportunities to sharpen skills and tap new interests, June 5-July 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (extended Care hours available). Visit armoryart.org/youthartcamps.



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SALUTE TO HAITI

Caribbean Born Journalist Jacqueline Charles Shares Her Insight On Haiti

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Award-winning South Florida, Caribbean journalist Jacqueline Charles knows the Caribbean like the back of her hand. It's literally in her blood. Of Haitian descent, Charles was born in the English-speaking, Caribbean Islands of Turks and Caicos.

It is this diverse heritage that puts her in the unique position of being able to look at events as an objective observer while still feeling the rhythm of the culture. Charles has been reporting on Haiti, and the English-speaking Caribbean, for decades. As the Caribbean/Haiti Correspondent for the Miami Herald, she has covered historic and turbulent events that helped shape the island of Haiti.

With so much conflict and uncertainty taking place in Haiti currently, Caribbean Today reached out to the veteran reporter for her perspective on the Caribbean Island that is celebrated as the first country in the region to gain independence from its colonizers, yet today is grappling with instability.

"As a journalist that's covering a big story like this, regardless of geography, you're always trying to balance your reporting," Charles explained. "Not just in the actual story that you're doing to present the different sides, but also in terms of the variety of stories."

In fact, in her endeavor to show a different side of Haiti, Charles' recent story in the Miami Herald focused on Haiti's bid for UNESCO recognition, along with four other countries - Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Venezuela.

Like these other countries, one of Haiti's staple foods, cassava flour, which comes from the cassava root, also called yuca, is critical to the health and survival of billions around the world. Thus, Haiti, along with the four countries mentioned, want this lowly root to be placed on the World Cultural Heritage list.

Cassava bread-making is a cultural tradition that dates back to the Indigenous tribe, the Taino Indians, not just in Haiti, but across the wider Caribbean. And today, the practice also provides jobs for many poor and working-class people.

"So that's one of the things that I always do as a reporter, trying to find those other stories that tell readers something about the country that they don't know and that may not be so obvious," Charles reflected. "Being from the region and being in this unique position where I am of Haitian heritage, but born and raised in the English-speaking Caribbean, I'm in a unique position to serve as a bridge, to show what unites us more than what divides us."

But, reporting the news, the current situation as it is happening on the ground, is also crucial to spreading awareness, giving people a voice, and moving toward possible solutions.

SLIVERS OF HOPE

We know that Haiti has been plagued with political violence, economic hardship, natural disasters, poverty, as well as gang warfare and an increasing incidence of kidnappings. Indeed, Charles has been at the forefront of these issues from the start of her journalistic career, but she still sees slivers of hope in the actions that some take.

"The poorest of the poor will spend the majority of whatever income they have on schooling, on education. And oftentimes, it's not a great school," Charles explained. "But there's still this belief that education is what's going to get this next generation, their kids, out of the situation or prevent them from falling into their parents' footsteps, no matter how bad things get in the country."

"You have these little pockets of hope that you see in the country... it's that spirit that you see in the population, and you see it more and more as things get worse," added the Caribbean born journalist.

Confirming what has been in the news lately, Charles reported that gangs have taken over the capital, and have been spreading out into other areas outside of Port-au-Prince. She said that everybody is at risk, not just visitors like the Haitian American Tamarac couple who were recently kidnapped while travelling by bus.

The average Haitian, those with money have also been targeted, she said, adding that there have been a number of high-profile kidnappings involving business owners.

Asked about local government and NGOs working together to find solutions, Charles painted a drab picture.

"Three or five years ago NGOs were at liberty and could move around in these communities. But one of the unfortunate realities is that because of the threat of kidnappings and violence, a lot of NGOs have left," said Charles. "As far as government today, you don't have any elected officials at all in this country; it's out of its constitution. So, all the elected leaders, their terms were up. Those that are there have basically been appointed. So that raises the issue of who has the trust or legitimacy to lead."

HAITIAN-LED SOLUTION

Charles added that "as much as people would like to



Miami Herald Caribbean-born, Haitian heritage journalist Jacqueline Charles shares her thoughts on the issues of Haiti and possible solutions. (Contributed image)

believe that this is a sovereign country, it is still dependent on foreign governments for a lot of things, while at the same time, those foreign governments are not completely innocent in the crisis."

"The big issue here for the US and for others, they talk about trying to get a Haitian-led solution, but the question is, what does that solution look like, and who owns that solution?" she queried.

Indeed, Haiti's current Prime Minister, Ariel Henry, requested assistance from the UN Peacekeeping Force to work with the Haitian National Police. Although some in the country agreed with his actions, many criticized him demanding that outside interference was not welcome.

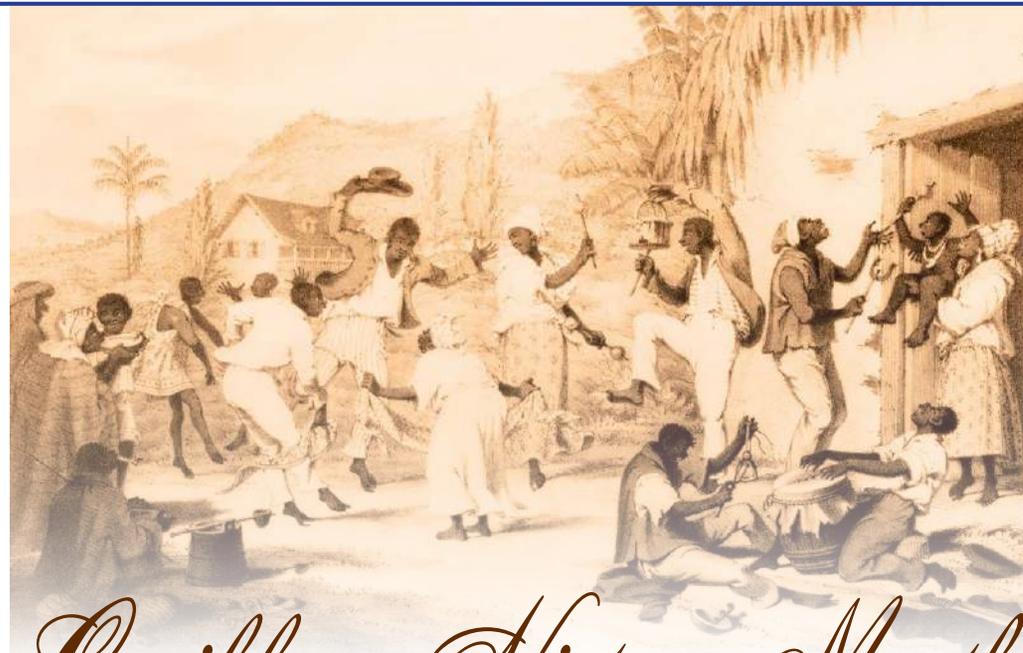
A series of sanctions by the United States and Canada against government officials

has also added to the tensions in Haiti. The journalist noted that while the sanctions may prevent certain actions by those named, some believe that these punitive actions may also have resulted in the expansion of the gangs.

"You have a bunch of young kids who have grown up in a very disenfranchised and a very unequal society," said Charles. "You have a population that increasingly doesn't really believe in democracy because all its brought them is pain and tears and violence, that's all they've seen. You have a generation today that have never known a functioning democracy."

Part of the multilayered solutions for Haiti's many crises could involve the Haitian diaspora, including Haitian-American politicians.

"I write stories and hope that people will read and familiarize themselves on what's happening and to get a different perspective, to see the human toll of all of this," she added. "So, I think that Haiti can also benefit from people who are not the usual suspects. Who also put this country on their radar and demand that something be done."



Caribbean History Month

June is Caribbean History Month, and this year we once again come together for this very special edition. Join Caribbean Today as we celebrate the fantastic strides that we have made and continue to make, as we pay tribute and salute the giants of Caribbean History. This is your chance to not just be a part of a most widely celebrated feature in Caribbean Today, but to be a part of a feature that will have its own special mark in Caribbean History.

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Haitian American Doctor Breaking Barriers In Philanthropy And Aesthetic Medicine



Dr. Rudolph Moise is a Haitian American medical professional whose aesthetic practice is at the forefront of several innovative treatments, including non-invasive body sculpting, non-surgical facelift, and cutting-edge therapies for sexual dysfunction. (Contributed image)

Dr. Rudolph Moise is a Haitian American medical professional who is breaking barriers in both philanthropy and aesthetic medicine. With over 30 years of experience in the field, Dr. Moise is the owner and medical director of Comprehensive Medical Aesthetics, located in North Miami. He is highly respected in the community for his commitment to giving back and has been involved with several local charities, including the Jackson Health Foundation, United Way Miami, and Angels for Humanity.

Recently, Dr. Moise was selected to the 2023-2024 Orange Bowl Committee, becoming one of a handful of Haitian Americans to be given this appointment in the organization's history. This is a testament to his reputation as a dedicated and accomplished medical professional.

"I am honoured and humbled to be selected to this year's Orange Bowl Committee. I will forever be grateful to the opportunities this great country has provided

me, so I feel it is my duty to give back to my community in any way I can," said Dr. Moise.

Dr. Moise's aesthetic practice is at the forefront of several innovative treatments, including non-invasive body sculpting, non-surgical facelift, and cutting-edge therapies for sexual dysfunction. He is particularly passionate about helping older adults prioritize their sexual health and function. According to Dr. Moise, as we age, our bodies go through natural changes that can affect our sexual health, and it is crucial for individuals to seek treatment to improve their sexual well-being.

In recognition of his positive impact on South Florida, Dr. Moise will receive the 2023 Joe Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Service Award this summer. He is an inspiration to many in the community and a role model for those who aspire to break barriers in both medicine and philanthropy.



Haiti's Hope Rests In Its Communities

BY KATE SCHECTER

Gang violence and political paralysis continue to plague Haiti. All the elements for entrenched poverty remain in place.

Haitians' futures can look hopeless to some. Yet there are development programs that have helped Haitians lift themselves out of poverty. These programs are small-scale, take time and build on what already works.

Here's an example:

Before the 2010 earthquake, Meladine Dalphinis was a tailor. With her workplace and livelihood destroyed, she went into farming.

In 2015, Meladine learned about a local community-based group working with our organization, World Neighbors. She joined a savings and credit group and started to learn about loans and other financial matters.

Meladine took out a \$35 loan from the group. She used

it to expand her leek fields and build a small fishpond. Her family eats the fish, a crucial source of protein. She sells the surplus in the local market. The initial investments generated enough profit to invest in livestock. The community group taught Meladine to use animal waste from her livestock to fertilize her crops. This reduces costs, increases profits and allows Meladine to avoid using chemical fertilizers. Surplus livestock fertilizer is another source of revenue and profit for Meladine - especially helpful given the increases in chemical fertilizer prices.

Eight years after her first training, Meladine runs a substantial family farm. Many of her neighbors in Odige do the same. In addition to basic finances and sustainable agriculture, communities have learned about sanitation and hygiene, water conservation, nutrition and health, including reproductive health. Each family now has their own bio-sand water filter for clean

potable water. They are growing their small businesses and providing hope for their children in the midst of the turmoil.

We work with nearly two dozen community groups in the Artibonite region where Meladine lives. Another 28 groups are now thriving on their own without outside assistance. While there is much more for them to achieve, families and communities have lifted themselves from subsistence and opened the door to further opportunities.

Haitians aren't fated to live in poverty. Those off the island can help them, but it will require new approaches that recognize the capacities and resilience of Haitians and their communities living in Haiti.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kate Schecter is CEO of World Neighbors.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Haitian Mob Lynch Suspected Gangsters

A vigilante mob, fed up with being terrorized by gangs and lawlessness, beat and burned 13 suspected gang members to death with gasoline-soaked tires on April 24th, after pulling the men from police custody at a traffic stop, police and witnesses said.

Haiti National Police said in a brief statement that officers in the city's Canape Vert section stopped and searched a minibus for contraband and had confiscated weapons from suspects before they were "unfortunately lynched by members of the population." The statement did not elaborate on how members of the crowd were able to take control of the suspects.

A witness who gave his name as Edner Samuel told The Associated Press that members of the crowd took the suspected gangsters away from police, beat them and stoned them before putting tires on them, pouring gasoline over them and burning them.

Samuel said the suspects were believed to have been heading to another area to join a group of gang members who were battling police. Another witness, Jean Josue, said there had been a lot of shooting in the



Haitians lynch and set alight suspected gang members on April 24, 2023 in Port-Au-Prince. (Reuters TV image)

area since the early morning. The situation in the capital remained tense, and shots could be heard ringing out from several neighbourhoods.

Witnesses at the scene said the suspects were believed to have been members of the Kraze Barye gang, which translates to "Breaking Barriers." Authorities say the group is led by Vitel'Homme Innocent, who is accused of helping kidnap 17 U.S. missionaries in October 2021 and also is linked to the assassination of Moïse. People continue to flee neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince, Haiti as gang-related violence soars. More than 530 people have been killed this year in gang violence there according to the UN, with many killed by snipers shooting victims at random.

An AP reporter at the scene said he saw 13 bodies burning in a street. The fires drew hundreds of onlookers in the hilly suburb of the city, many of them shielding their noses from the fumes.

The violence underlined the increasingly dangerous situation in Port-au-Prince where criminal gangs have taken control over an estimated 60% of the city since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

More than 530 people have been killed this year in gang violence in Haiti, the United Nations said on March 21, 2023, with many killed by snipers shooting victims at random.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



CONCACAF Gold Cup Reignites Jamaica, US Rivalry



The Reggae Boyz open the Gold Cup group stage against the United States on June 24. (Ronald Zak/ AP image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

The CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament is approaching, and Caribbean fans are optimistic that a team from the region will finally go all the way. Haiti and Jamaica have qualified for the main draw which starts June 24 with defending champions United States playing Jamaica at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Jamaica and the United States will reignite their rivalry in the opening fixture of the CONCACAF Gold Cup group stage, in a repeat of the quarterfinal clash in the 2021 tournament.

The Reggae Boyz will face the reigning champions and hosts at Soldier Field in Chicago on June 24th, the only game scheduled for the opening day of the tournament which will run from June 16th to July 16th. In their previous meeting, the United States edged Jamaica 1-0 en route to their seventh title. The Reggae Boyz will then take on Nicaragua before clashing with a yet-to-be-determined qualifier from the preliminary tournament.

Trinidad and Tobago, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana, Grenada, French Guiana, St. Lucia, Suriname, St. Kitts/Nevis,

Countdown To The CPL Is On

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will be played in five countries across the region in 2023, according to an announcement by tournament officials.

The league, which is the flagship Twenty20 competition in the Caribbean, will feature six teams competing in 34 matches between August 18 and September 10.

The tournament will kick off in St Kitts and Nevis, where Warner Park will host the opening fixtures, before moving to venues in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Jamaica. This marks the first time the CPL will be played in five countries, as previous editions have been held in four.

The move to expand the number of host countries is part of the CPL's efforts to further grow the game in the region, as well as to provide a boost to tourism and local economies. The CPL has been a major success since its inception in 2013, attracting some of the biggest

St. Maarten, Puerto Rico and Curacao will vie for three places to complete the main draw. This will be determined by a June 16-20 preliminary round at DRV PNK Stadium in Fort Lauderdale.

Carl Brown coached Jamaica at three Gold Cups, the last being in 1998 when the Reggae Boyz made history by qualifying for the World Cup in France. Their best

effort came in 2017 when they were runners-up to the US, losing 1-2 in the final at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Based on sentiment, Brown hopes a Caribbean team will break the ice but admits that is a tough task.

"In the past, we were just competing against teams like the US and Mexico but Canada is emerging as a powerhouse. When it comes to resources, we are way behind those countries, even the teams from Latin America," he said.

Mexico and the US have dominated the Gold Cup which was first held in 1991. The South Americans have won eight times, while the Americans notched their seventh in two years ago; Canada won in 2000, beating Colombia 2-0 in the final.

Jamaica have made the final twice. Their first appearance, in 2015, saw them losing 1-3 to Mexico.

While teams such as Jamaica have players who are professionals in Major League Soccer, as well as in the United Kingdom and Europe, Brown believes that is not enough.

"They have to have

names in world cricket and drawing large crowds to matches.

Pete Russell, CEO of the CPL, expressed his excitement for the upcoming season, saying, "We are delighted to announce that the CPL will be played in five countries for the first time in 2023. This is a testament to the growth of the league and the passion for cricket across the Caribbean. We believe that hosting the tournament in multiple countries will help to further expand the reach of the league, while also providing a unique experience for fans and players alike."

The CPL has also announced that it will be implementing new initiatives to promote sustainability and reduce its environmental impact during the tournament. These initiatives include using eco-friendly materials for all promotional materials and reducing the use of single-use plastics at all venues.

- *Rewritten from ESPN*

commitment and that's an area I think we have lacked in the past. If there's no commitment, teams will find it hard to win any tournament," he stated.

Interestingly, Trinidad and Tobago have jostled with Jamaica for top spot in Caribbean soccer for decades. Like Mexico and the US, they were multiple winners of the defunct Shell Cup and have both played in the World Cup.

But while the Reggae Boyz

remain competitive, the game in Trinidad and Tobago has declined considerably in the past 15 years.

Brown, who has coached youth teams in South Florida for over 20 years, hopes the Trininis advance to the main draw.

"It's going to be interesting to see what happens with them. The Caribbean needs Trinidad and Tobago to do well," he said.

The CONCACAF Gold Cup final is scheduled for July 16 in

Inglewood, California.

The CONCACAF Gold Cup, held biennially, is the premier regional football championship for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. The tournament features 16 teams from across the region, with the winner qualifying for the CONCACAF Cup, which serves as a playoff for a place in the FIFA Confederations Cup.



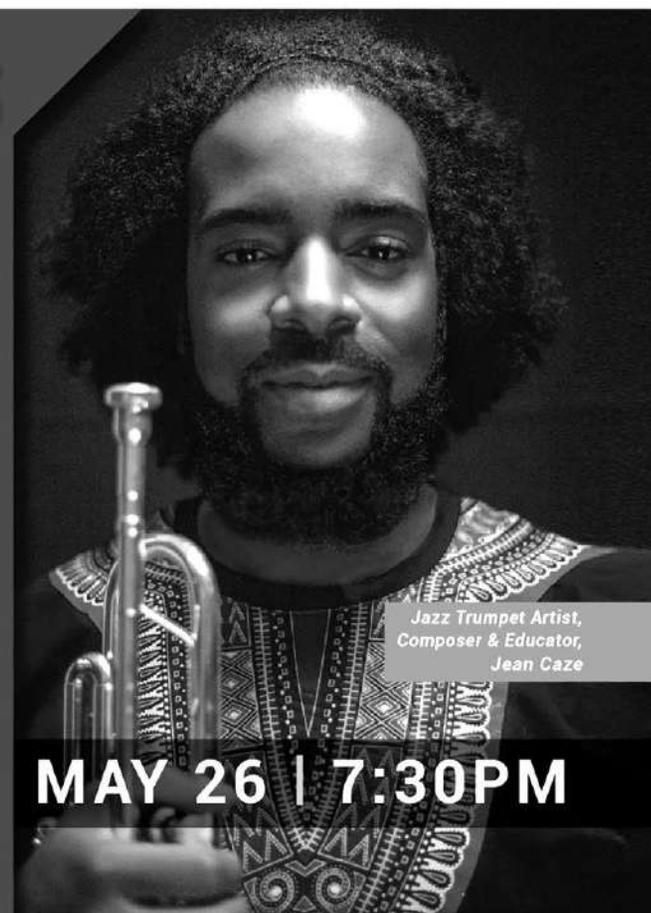
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