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CARIBBEAN IN THE HOUSE

Christmas has come early for the Caribbean Diaspora this year, and come January 21, 2021, the Caribbean presence in the White House and the new Joseph Biden administration will increase significantly...
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(Noah Berger, AFP/Getty)



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Regional Caribbean News Round Up

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

Jamaica

One of the 13 prisoners deported from the UK last week to Jamaica has tested positive for COVID-19, the Jamaican government has confirmed. The man is being held in isolation at a hospital in the capital, Kingston. He had been in detention in the UK for almost a month before his deportation.

The flight has led to accusations by members of the Windrush generation of deeply insulting behavior from the home secretary, Priti Patel. Many concerns were raised about the COVID risk of chartering a flight to Jamaica during the pandemic.

The deportation came amid a strong campaign from public figures, including Jamaican roots model Naomi Campbell, and legal attempts to stop the controversial flight.

The chartered flight with all male deportees arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport shortly after 7 a.m. on Wednesday Dec. 2, 2020. However, 37 others were given a last-minute legal reprieve.

Guyana President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali says he

has extended an invite to all the former heads of state to a meeting to discuss Guyana's future development. Ali said the meeting is scheduled to take place on December 15, 2020.

"I think it is an opportunity for us to continue to share ideas, generate ideas, talk about how we see Guyana's development and to work out a model and a framework on how we engage on the future and how we have continuous contribution," Ali said.

The other former heads of states are the current Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo, Donald Ramotar, Samuel Hinds, all of whom are members of the ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and David Granger of the main opposition coalition, A Partnership for National Unity (APNU).

The news comes as Brazil's Petrobras says it may expand its operations into neighboring Guyana, if the regulatory environment does not improve in Brazil.

During the biennial Rio Oil & Gas conference, the company's CEO said onerous environmental licensing requirements in Brazil were pushing the oil firm to consider Guyana.

"We have (in northern

Brazil) the potential for a great oil basin and we're barred. At the same time, Guyana is taking advantage of the situation," Roberto Castello Branco said.

"(Guyana) attracts us. For now, we're continuing to invest in Brazil, but it's possible we go over there as well, preferring that to generating value, generating jobs in a very poor region of Brazil," he added.

Trinidad & Tobago

A High Court judge has dismissed an application that would have stopped the deportation of an 11-year-old Venezuelan girl, chiding her mother for the "brazen and bold disregard" for Trinidad and Tobago's immigration laws.

Justice Frank Seepersad in a written judgement late last week that the application by the child's mother was void of evidence that she or her daughter were facing persecution in Venezuela, or that others like them had benefited from a policy for refugees and asylum-seekers.

The child's mother lives in Trinidad and Tobago and has United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) asylum-seeker status but does not have a ministerial permit under government's amnesty program.



The 13 Jamaicans were deported amid protests in the UK to stop the charters. Massive protests had taken place in February before the pandemic. (Photo: Shabbir Lakha)

The child was part of a group of 26 who returned to the twin island Republic illegally on November 24th, two days after they were escorted out of Trinidad and Tobago's waters by the Coast Guard.

Haiti

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has charged Anson Jean-Pierre, president and CEO of Miami-based Brothers Investment Group, with misusing nearly \$300,000 in funds raised from about 200 investors, most of them Haitian-Americans.

Between August 2017 and November 2018, Jean-Pierre solicited investors through his company, Brothers Investment Group International, according to the SEC complaint filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in Miami on Nov. 24. The Hialeah man, 58, raised \$794,000 from mostly Haitian-American investors. However, about \$294,000 of the funds went to finance Jean-Pierre's lifestyle, the complaint said.

According to the complaint, Jean-Pierre urged investors to invest in "membership interests" in his company, telling them Brothers Investment Group would use the funds to oversee development projects in Haiti, and that their funds would be invested "at a profit." The projects included potential real estate, agricultural, e-commerce and banking projects.

The Bahamas

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says The Bahamas faces long-standing structural impediments, and that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has brought them to the fore.

Real GDP is projected to decline by 16.2 per cent in 2020, followed by a modest rebound of two per cent in 2021, and to converge back to its pre-pandemic level only by 2024. The current account balance is projected at a deficit of 17.4 per cent of GDP in 2020 and will improve only gradually, consistent with the projected

pick up in tourism in 2022.

Foreign reserves reached a record level of US\$2.3 billion in October and should remain well above the minimum suggested threshold of three months of imports over the medium-term.

Antigua & Barbuda

The Antigua-based regional airline, LIAT, has suspended services to two of its previously announced destinations while it awaits the approval from the relevant authorities in Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, two former shareholder governments of the financially-strapped airline.

LIAT, which is now under administration, had late last month announced the resumption of flights five days a week to seven destinations across its network.

The seven destinations are: Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Vincent and LIAT said that the limited schedule of flights will return connectivity to these destinations which were impacted by the airline's suspension of commercial services in March due to financial problems and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that forced many Caribbean countries to shut down their borders.

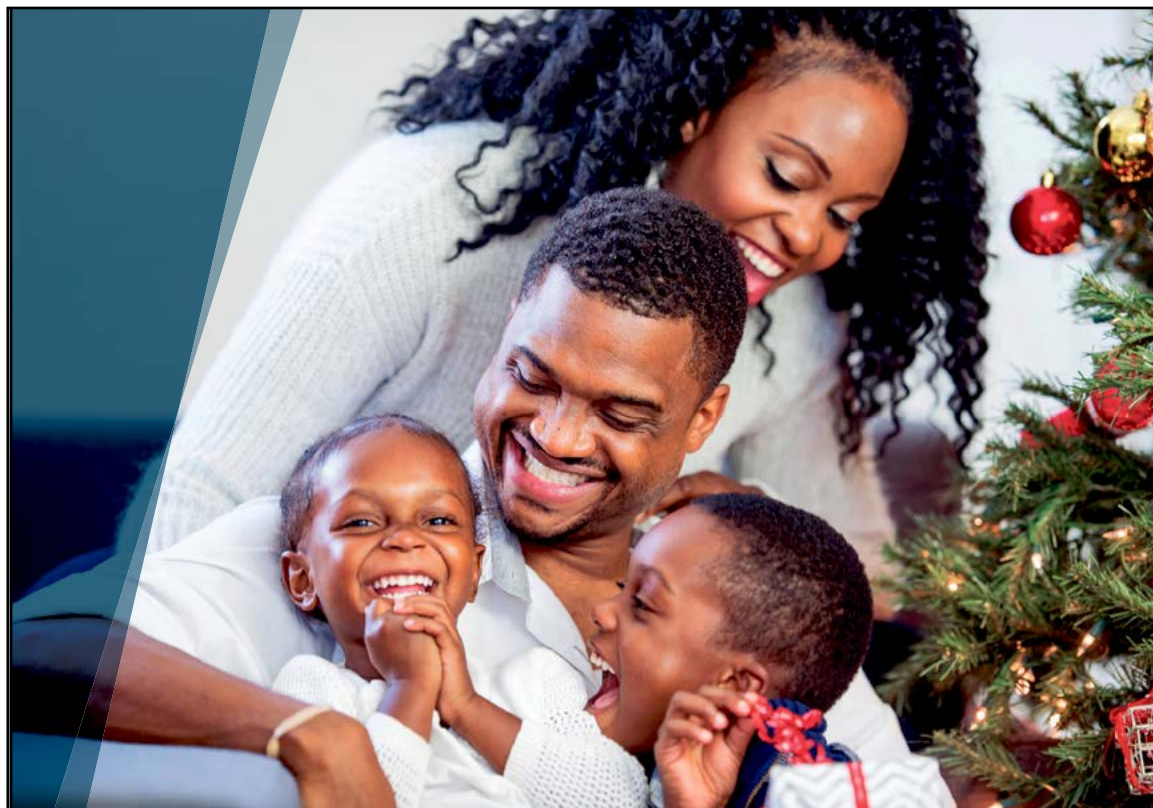
Grenada

Grenada says it will place a temporary ban on the importation of poultry products from the United Kingdom as this week.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands & Forestry said that the ban is due to an ongoing outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly known as Bird Flu, in the European country.

"The ban on hatching eggs, feathers, fresh poultry, chilled poultry meat and frozen poultry meat, would remain in effect until a satisfactory Animal Health report is issued from the U.K.," the statement said.

Rewritten and Compiled From CMC And Reuters News



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Caribbean In The House

A Much-Needed Christmas And New Year Gift For The Caribbean Diaspora



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Christmas came early for the Caribbean Diaspora this year in the form of a change of administration in the US, following voting last month by many Caribbean Americans in key states across the country.

And come January 21, 2021, the Caribbean presence in the White House and the new Joseph Biden administration will increase significantly, with not just the first Caribbean American US Vice-President, but also three Caribbean-born appointed staff members.

Martinique-born, Haitian roots political campaign organizer, activist, political commentator, author, and lecturer in international and public affairs at Columbia University, Karine Jean Pierre, will be the principal deputy press secretary.

She is a proud member of the LGBTQ community who previously served as the chief public affairs officer for MoveOn.org. Jean Pierre served as the chief of staff to then Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Senator Kamala Harris, whose roots also extend to the Caribbean through her Jamaican father.

The 43-year-old tweeted: I am profoundly honored to be the Principal Deputy Press Secretary for @JoeBiden. I am especially thrilled to work alongside @jrpsaki whose leadership and stellar instincts will ensure we are positioned to effectively communicate the Biden-Harris agenda to all Americans."

Jean Pierre was raised in Queens, New York by Haitian immigrant parents and received her MPA from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University in 2003.

She later joined the Columbia University faculty in 2014, where she is a lecturer in international and public affairs. Jean-Pierre lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her partner, CNN correspondent Suzanne Malveaux, and their daughter.

The second Caribbean immigrant named to the Biden team is the Dominican Republic-born immigrant, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, has been named the Chief-of-Staff to Dr. Jill Biden.

Pantaleon is a partner at the law firm Winston and

Strawn LLP. She is a graduate of Harvard University, the University of Cambridge and Columbia Law School and previously served as U.S. ambassador to Uruguay and as deputy assistant secretary of state for the western hemisphere in the U.S. Department of State under the Obama-Biden

administration.

Currently, she serves as a trustee for New York-Presbyterian Hospital and for Columbia University, and she's on the Board of Directors of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law and the Truman National Security Project.

And the third Caribbean immigrant named was nominated to a top cabinet post. He is Cuban-born Alejandro Mayorkas, who came to the US with his parents and sister in the late 1960 as refugees, following the Cuban Revolution. He was

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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Dreamers Scores Another Win Against Donald Trump

Dreamers have again scored a win over the Donald Trump's administration as a Brooklyn judge ordered the U.S. government to reopen to first-time applicants to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program created by President Barack Obama in 2012.

The program, that protects many hundreds of thousands of immigrants who live in the United States unlawfully after arriving as children from deportation, was ended by Trump in 2017.

But the courts have ruled for the program and kept it alive in a constant stinging rebuke to the Trump administration's anti-immigration agenda. Even the Supreme Court decided that the administration's attempt to end DACA was "arbitrary and capricious" and violated federal law.

U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Dec. 4, 2020, directed the US' Department of Homeland Security to post a public notice "displayed prominently" on its websites by this week, announcing that it is accepting new DACA applications.

The judge also ordered that the notice make clear that employment authorization under



Advocates for immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 15, 2020. GETTY Image

DACA would last for two years rather than one. Garaufis found in November that acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf had been unlawfully appointed to his post, meaning he did not have the authority to issue the July DACA memorandum.

Following the ruling then, Wolf in July issued a memo that continued to block new applications to the program while he subjected it to a "full reconsideration." The memo also limited employment authorization to one year and curtailed recipients' ability to travel outside the United States.

Trump's administration has consistently argued that Obama exceeded his constitutional powers when he created DACA

by executive action, bypassing Congress. Obama created DACA after Congress failed to pass bipartisan legislation to overhaul U.S. immigration policy.

DACA recipients often are called "Dreamers" based on the name of legislation considered but never passed in Congress.

Democratic President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office on Jan. 20, 2021, has said he plans to revitalize DACA in the first 100 days and send a comprehensive immigration reform bill that includes legalization for undocumented immigrant living in the US, to Congress.

(Rewritten from Reuters)



Caribbean In The House

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

1-year-old at the time.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Mayorkas would become the first Caribbean-born, the first Latino and first foreign-born leader of the sprawling department, created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

"When I was very young, the United States provided my family and me a place of refuge," Mayorkas wrote on Twitter following the announcement. "Now, I have been nominated to be the DHS

Secretary and oversee the protection of all Americans and those who flee persecution in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones."

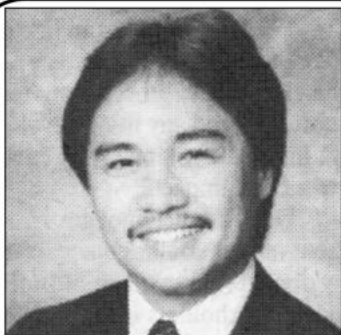
Of course, President-elect Biden will be aided by the US' first Black and female Vice-President, Kamala Harris, whose father, Donald Harris, like America's Greatest immigrant and US founding father, Alexander Hamilton, came to America from the Caribbean as a young man, plowing the path for Harris all these years later.

From slavery to 2020. From

Caribbean American Heritage Month, to the ability for Caribbean nationals to write in their ancestry and nationality of US Census forms to the first US VP of Caribbean heritage and several Caribbean immigrants in the White House.

As the goal post shift, can we dare imagine the possibility that the first woman President of the United States could very well also be the first Caribbean American US President?

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Good News For The Caribbean On The HIV/AIDS Front



AIDS-related deaths as well as HIV infections are on the decline in the Caribbean, The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2020.

This as the organization said about 330,000 people in the Caribbean are living with HIV.

PAHO says annual deaths from AIDS-related illnesses declined by 37 per cent from 2010 through 2019 or from about 11,000 in 2010 to 6,900 in 2019 in Caribbean countries.

New yearly infections from the HIV virus also dropped by 29 percent or from about 18,000 in 2010 to 13,000 in 2019.

The decline in infections resulted from various preventive measures, including use of medications taken before and after contact with someone with

HIV, which are known as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis).

PAHO attributed the decline to an increase in testing and improvement in delivery of lifelong antiretroviral treatment.

PAHO said the decline in testing means that people with undiagnosed HIV are unaware of their situation and not getting lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, potentially exposing others to HIV transmission.

In another sign of long-term progress in the Caribbean, PAHO said the percentage of children born to mothers with HIV who are infected with the virus declined to 12 percent in 2019 from 22 percent in 2010.

The percentage of people with HIV who receive antiretroviral treatment also

rose to 63 percent in 2019 in the Caribbean, compared to 22 percent in 2010.

The percentage of women with HIV who are getting lifelong antiretroviral treatment, which decreases the risk of their children being infected, rose to 86 percent in 2019 in the Caribbean, compared to 42 percent in 2010, PAHO said.

It also said that the percentage of children with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral treatment rose from 42 percent in 2017 in the Caribbean to 44 percent in 2019.

COVID-19 AND HIV TESTING

But PAHO said that it has evidence that, since the pandemic struck, the number of people being tested for HIV in both the Caribbean and Latin America has dropped.

In the first six months of 2020, PAHO said there were about 4,000 fewer diagnoses of HIV in eight Caribbean and Latin American nations – Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru and St. Lucia – than there were in the first six months of 2019.

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Georgia Continues Investigation Of Bermudian Shot By Cops

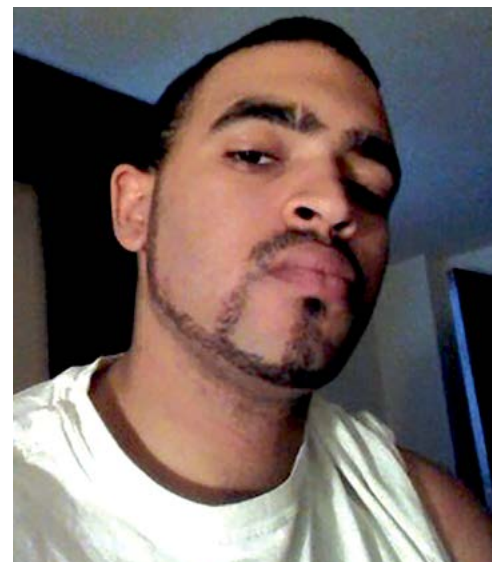
The Georgia Bureau of Investigations says it is still investigating a fatal shooting involving a Fayette County Sheriff's deputy and a black man and national of Bermuda.

The shooting happened on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020 outside the home of Alonzo Landy in Fayetteville, Georgia. Landy is the latest black man killed by police in the US in the era of Black Lives Matter.

Landy, a veteran, reportedly called 911 advising that he was telling people to get out of his head and was shooting rabbits. During the phone call, 911 dispatch heard numerous gunshots, and then Landy advised he was barricaded in his house.

Deputies went to his home just after 3 p.m. and they began a negotiation. But at approximately 5:12 p.m., Landy reportedly exited his residence and began firing an assault rifle at the deputies.

A Fayette County Sheriff's



Bermuda National Alonzo Landy

Office deputy returned fire, striking Landy multiple times. Landy was transported by EMS to Piedmont Fayette Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

His father, Arnold Landy, a former tv cameraman in Bermuda. He told ZBM TV that his son was a veteran who had been left "changed" by his war experiences.

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NEWS



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House Votes For Decriminalization But Real Change Hinges On Georgia Elections

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Friday to decriminalize marijuana at the federal level, but the legislation hinges on if Democrats can take control of the Senate next month.

It was the first time either chamber of Congress has voted to end the federal ban on marijuana since the drug was listed as a "controlled substance" in 1970. But is not expected to advance further as long as the Senate remains in Republican hands.

A Democratic Congressman, whose district in Brooklyn and Queens in New York represents a significant number of Caribbean nationals, strongly supported passage of the measure in the US House of Representatives decriminalizing marijuana.

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, whose 8th Congressional District represents parts of Brooklyn and Queens, said he strongly supported passage on of H.R. 3884, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2020 in the US House of



Representatives on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020.

In a 228-164 vote, the US House of Representatives approved the MORE Act that would end the US federal prohibition and criminalization of marijuana by removing it from the Controlled Substances Act and facilitate the expungement of low-level federal marijuana convictions, as well as incentivizing state and local governments to do the same.

Jeffries noted that the current federal prohibition on marijuana is codified in federal law signed by former President

Richard Nixon. Under that statute, marijuana is in the same category as heroin and LSD.

Jeffries said marijuana prohibition laws result in over 600,000 arrests each year, with 90 percent of those arrests for simple possession.

The congressman said Blacks are four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana charges than white Americans, despite using marijuana at comparable rates.

In 2019, over 2.3 million Americans were incarcerated, one in five of them for non-violent drug possession, Jeffries said.

The congressman said the MORE Act would decriminalize marijuana at the federal level by removing the substance from the Controlled Substances Act, apply this retroactively to prior and pending convictions and enable states to set their own policies.

The passage of the MORE Act came two days after the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) took a number of decisions, leading to changes in the way marijuana (cannabis) is internationally-

regulated, including its reclassification out of the most dangerous category of drugs.

Currently, the UN said more than 50 countries have adopted medicinal cannabis programs, while Canada, Uruguay and 15 US states have legalized its recreational use, with Mexico and Luxembourg close to becoming the third and fourth countries to do so.

Rewritten from Reuters & CMC



Stuck In The Cold This Christmas



Farm workers on a Canadian farm. (Stock image)

More than 100 farm workers from Trinidad and Tobago could be stuck in cold Canada this Christmas because of COVID-19.

Canada's rising COVID-19 numbers have Trinidadian authorities reluctant to issue travel exemptions for seasonal workers looking to fly back home for Christmas this holiday, leaving them stuck in cold Norfolk County, Ontario.

"Everybody is complaining to the minister of security right now, because people's contracts are done and they can't go home," Anthony, a farm worker in Norfolk who only wanted his first name used, told the Hamilton Spectator. "The problem, really and truly, is back in Trinidad, since Canada is willing to allow us to go back home."

Being in limbo is tough, especially for workers like David, who faces the prospect of being away from his young children over the holidays.

"The experience over here would be nice, but the experience would've been nice if it is with family. I want to spend time with my kids on Christmas," David, who landed in Canada in January to start an eight-month contract, told the paper. "And we're still here. When you call the family and tell them you can't come, it's depressing."

Returnees from a high-risk country like Canada must quarantine in a hotel for seven days, even if the workers are allowed to leave later this

month, there is no guarantee they will be with their families on Christmas Day.

Anthony is grateful his employer is letting workers stay on the farm for free. But he is frustrated that he's shelling out for a parka and winter boots.

"You're supposed to take care of your family," he said. "(But) you need to live, so you end up spending the money you worked for," he added.

The local health unit and FARMS - the federal agency in charge of the farm worker program - are now trying to find answers for the stranded workers and their employers.

Trinidad's point person for farm workers in Canada is Eric Poliah from the country's labor ministry who referred all questions to Trinidad's permanent secretary of labor, Natalie Willis.

The labor ministry did not respond to interview requests from J.P. Antonacci, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter of The Hamilton Spectator.

Now several workers told The Spectator they would welcome donations of grocery gift cards to help tide them over this holiday as they hunker down in the cold. Interested community members can mail gift cards or send e-transfers to victoria@schuylerfarms.ca for the Trinidadian workers of the farm.

Rewritten from The Hamilton Spectator



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A Caribbean Institution Whose Time Has Come

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The first of its kind in the world, Island SPACE Caribbean Heritage Museum, opened in South Florida at the Westfield Broward Mall to enthusiastic supporters.



Culinary artifacts.

But, with the global pandemic shaping our lives, many are asking why now? But perhaps the question should be why not now?

In a conversation with Co-Founder, David Muir, he spoke about the genesis, the imaginings and reimagining of the institute, that passion and love of one's heritage birthed.

"We were doing Taste the Islands Experience, our annual food festival, and as a way to build more activities for the guests, we added a culinary museum as part of our offering," he explained, "That led quickly to Eddy Edwards inviting us to the Jamaican Jerk Festival. Then we took it on a mini-tour and it did well. Securing several grants, we were able to add programming that involved taking the culinary museum on tour throughout Broward County, and the response and support was really phenomenal."

Knowing that funding was key to growing the concept, the team formed a non-profit company last year. Hence, Island SPACE was born, the acronym meaning: Island Society for the Promotion of Artistic and Cultural Education. Truly an institution with aims to feature activities and events that represent all islands of the Caribbean region.

Muir, whose role is president, explained that the umbrella institute was created to activate several initiatives, with the Caribbean heritage museum being just one of them. Specifically, Island SPACE is dedicated to the development

and advancement of arts, culture, history and educational initiatives that represent the Caribbean region.

And Muir wants to make it abundantly clear that this museum is not about Jamaica. It is Caribbean, he insists, and

now housed in the museum came from many sources, mostly from the principles putting out a call for cultural Caribbean items. Much of the collection has been donated, some permanently, while others are on long-term loan.

Island SPACE has also reached out to several museums and institutions across the region including Cuba, the eastern Caribbean islands, as well as those CARICOM countries in South America such as Guyana and Suriname. The directors are eager to fill the space with all Caribbean 'voices.'

"This belongs to everyone who is from the Caribbean, including Guyana, Belize and



Music related artifacts.

even Panama, for example," Muir stressed. "This is not an English-speaking museum; this is for all of the us. The goal is the unification of all the people from the Caribbean to come together and to celebrate our heritage, our culture as one."

"Importantly," he added. "Island SPACE Caribbean Heritage Museum is not an art museum, it's a heritage museum where we want to show our

culture, we want to showcase our indigenous people, what happened under colonialism, how we survived slavery, what it was like to be emancipated, to go through independence. We have a shared history."

Island SPACE Caribbean Heritage Museum officially opens in January 2021.



shines a light on cultural contributions from the Spanish, Dutch, French, and English-speaking islands of the region.

This project was also conceptualized and concretized by a team of co-founders, among them Calibe Thompson, its executive director, and Lloyd Stanbury, its Vice President, with support from directors representing wide-ranging expertise.

ARTIFACTS

Noted Caribbean cultural figure, Mrs. Norma Darby, Founder and Past President of the Louise Bennett-Coverley Heritage Council, lauded the creatives behind this venture for their invaluable contribution to uplifting a people.

"Island SPACE Caribbean Heritage Museum adds another dimension," said Darby. "The artifacts and exhibits, the lifestyles of an era (are) not only encompassing and artfully showcasing the culture, lifestyle, and history of the entire Caribbean, but the similarities/ commonalities in their roots and traditions, and of course, the undeniable Asian and African influence."

Some of the artifacts on display were part of the culinary museum initiative. Other items

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An Early Christmas Gift For Undocumented Caribbean Immigrants In NY

New York Attorney General Letitia James has won a court appeal protecting undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants' ability to legally obtain driver's licenses in the state.

The US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York last week upheld a lower,

or district, court decision that dismissed a lawsuit brought by New York's Erie County Clerk, Michael Kearns, that would have blocked the law, known as the Green Light Law, from taking effect last year.

"The Green Light law is legal and enforceable, and the decision marks the third federal

court to dismiss challenges brought seeking to enjoin the law," James said. "This law provides protections to all New Yorkers by making our roads safer, growing our economy, and allowing immigrants to come out of the shadows to sign up as legal drivers in our state."

Last November, US District Judge Elizabeth Wolford granted a motion by James to dismiss the lawsuit, which was the subject of the appeal.

Additionally, last December, James won dismissal of a separate lawsuit brought by New York's Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola, who also sought to block the Green Light law from taking effect.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) noted on its website that the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, commonly called the "Green Light law," was enacted on June 17 last year.

"It allows all New Yorkers age 16 and older to apply for a standard, not for federal purpose, non-commercial driver license or learner permit



regardless of their citizenship or lawful status in the United States," the site states.

Under the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, DMV said driver license applicants who have never been issued a Social Security Number are eligible to apply.

"You must sign an Affidavit (sworn statement) of never having been issued a Social Security Number when you apply for a standard driver license," the NY DMV sites says, adding that all applicants for a standard driver license must show a combination of documents that prove their name, date of birth and New York State residency.

In addition, the DMV said

undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants must pass a knowledge test to get a driver permit and then pass a road test before getting a driver's license.

- Edited From CMC



Iowa Police Department Warns Of Caribbean Scam Callers

A Police Department in the state of Iowa has put out an official notice to residents about scam calls, after they received complaints from more than 50 people saying they received as many as 60 calls from the Caribbean.

The Pella Police Department is investigating a string of robocalls that they say bombarded hundreds of central Iowans this week. The calls started Tuesday afternoon, Pella police and the Iowa Attorney General's Office said.

The department said on its Facebook page that the ongoing scam of phone calls are from Barbados, Jamaica, and other areas in the Caribbean.

They said no specific cell phone carrier were specifically targeted, but they said a significant amount of the people who received the calls had phone numbers beginning with

641-780.

It also advised residents not to answer the calls or return calls to the numbers and "to never give out personal information over the phone and always verify the identity of anyone requesting money or gift cards be purchased to settle a debt or assist a loved one."

"There have been some reports in the past of when you call back that number that does create a fee for that long-distance number that people have been hit with on their bill. So again, don't call them back, and never give out any personal information to unsolicited calls," Pella police Cpt. Paul Haase said.

Some citizens in Des Moines also reportedly received upwards of 30 calls as well.

(NewsAmericasNow.com)



This Caribbean Island Names First Poet Laureate

The British Virgin Islands has appointed its first ever Poet Laureate - award winning poet Dr. Richard Georges.

A Poet Laureate is the official poet ambassador of the territory and is selected from amongst the territory's most accomplished poets and must serve for three years.

"While this is a great personal milestone, I believe what is more important is what portends for the undreamt future, that we are beginning to acknowledge the position and importance of the arts in the development of the society," said Georges who was speaking during a recent ceremony. "It must be stated that the role of a poet laureate is not a symbolic one, that it questions not so much the merit of the individual who receives the award, but more so their capability in fulfilling the functions that are before them."

Georges, who is also the President of the H. Laverty Stoutt Community College, urged the government and the Department of Culture to continue to put the



H. Laverty Stoutt Community College President Dr. Richard Georges has been appointed the Virgin Islands' first poet laureate.

necessary mechanisms in place to propel literary arts in the BVI.

He also briefly outlined some of the goals he intends to achieve during his three-year tenure.

"I also admonish you to continue to develop and invest

in artists through commissions of art, literature, murals, statues. To work towards the creation of a national museum and gallery, with significant art work to be exhibited to residents and tourists and to encourage and facilitate the production of

plays and films to be performed and screened right here in this auditorium."

The newly appointed Poet Laureate also pledged to conduct and facilitate workshops for residents in poetry, fiction and non-fiction, by collaborating with notable writers throughout the Caribbean diaspora.

Meanwhile, BVI Minister for Education, Dr Natalio Wheatley, said the award is a recognition of the central role that culture plays in shaping the identity and the destiny of the citizens.

He said it is fitting Dr Georges, who is an internationally acclaimed poet, is the first recipient of the award after significantly contributing to literary arts in the territory for years.

Rewritten From CMC



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Donald Trump Has Turned America's Democracy Into A S...Hole

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

In January 2018, it was first reported by the Washington Post that Donald Trump had reportedly referred to Haiti, El Salvador and African nations as "S...Hole countries," during a meeting with a bipartisan group of senators at the White House.

Fast track that to Nov.

2020, where the world now has a front row seat to the S...Hole that Trump has turned America and its "democracy" into.

For decades, the United States of America has flown its big banner of "democracy" around the world, slamming many developing nations and dictators who try to steal elections and hold on to power.

In 2017, the Trump administration turned its attention to reversing Barack Obama's policies on Cuba, reverting to old, failed US policies of "upholding democracy," to satisfy a Miami-Cuban base, still angry over losing power in Cuba decades earlier.

In 2018, the attention was put on "democracy" in Venezuela and the administration of President Nicholas Maduro, as the Trump administration recognized Juan Guaido instead as the legitimate president, placed sanctions on the South American nation, crippling its economy, and used the Organization of American States, (OAS), in its campaign to get rid of Maduro. That failed.

Earlier this year, the "democracy" war continued. In March 2020, the US, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, launched a five-month campaign in the CARICOM South American nation of Guyana, to ensure the A Partnership For National Unity, (APNU) government, led by David Granger, did not end up reinstalling itself as the government after losing the elections.

In September, the US turned its attention to Belarus, joining European allies to press the government for free and fair election, after it was apparent the incumbent there had rigged the election to hold on to power.

Three months later, here we are in the U.S., looking like the same term Trump used in 2018 to denigrate countries like Haiti and those in Africa and Central America.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

So much for "US Democracy," as many globally are starting to see, and as Trump tries like a strong-arm dictator the US loves to eschew, to upend the Nov. 3, 2020 election results by claiming falsely he won; spreading lies of "legal versus illegal" votes, and sowing doubts around an institution that has long been the beacon many aspire to.

Amazingly, many Republican lawmakers, several of whom also turn up their noses at so-called "Third World" nations and their elections by issuing statements and threats under the guise of upholding democracy in the world, are now silent.

Even the OAS, which has marched around the Americas as the democracy police, criticizing countries in the region for their election processes, is now also mute.

Why? Because the Big Fat White Bully has the pulpit and his attempts to turn America into a Banana Republic, by repressing black and immigrant votes, are not nearly as repulsive as black and brown wanna-be dictators in so-called Third World nations. Especially since he is merely fighting for White Superiority

Much like he did to Atlantic City, Donald Trump has managed to do on a bigger scale to America – tanking the economy, killing thousands, ripping the mask off from the hypocrisy banner of so-called democracy, turning it into a global laughing stock and S-Hole and ensuring forever that America's credibility to wave the flag of democracy to other nations globally is forever tattered. Make America Great Again? Right!

President-Elect Joe Biden has called Trump's brazen attempts to hold on to power and overturn the will of American voters "embarrassing." In Europe, Czech President Milos Zeman, an early Trump supporter, also echoed the same sentiment when asked recently about Trump's refusal to grant Biden and his team access to begin the transition.

But it is more than "embarrassing;" it is the beginning of the end of America as "the beacon of democracy," and the rapid decline of the global watch dog and democracy arm bearer as it falls rapidly into a dark, fetid abyss, aka S-Hole, thanks to Donald J. Trump.

The writer is publisher of *NewsAmericasNow*



The DNA Of A Black Woman

BY CHUCK RICHARDSON

There is something magical about a fearless, intelligent, incorruptible black woman. A woman willing to sacrifice and face any obstacle she must for a greater cause than herself. Black women have been, and continue to be, the crucible of fortitude. Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer and thousands beside them have been the bedrock of African American progress.

I realized in my late twenties that if you want to get it done – you better have black women involved. That was when I, in 1977, ran for and won a seat on the first majority Black city council in Richmond, Va. It was the determination of Black women, some more than twice my age, that made the history possible.

When those Black women spoke, weathered by storms of racism, deprivation and personal abuses, it changed the atmosphere.

A crowd of timid, doubtful or unfocused lambs became ferocious lions. People today might speak of my legacy of achievements in Richmond, but they don't know the source of my confidence. I can't recall the number of times strong black women lifted me and forged new inspiration.

From the late seventies to the early nineties, I won nine consecutive re-elections. Any success reached by fighting the good fight, including my relentless efforts over two decades to remove the Confederate monuments on Monument Ave, were only possible because of the victories won for me by these women. Black men in my campaigns were strong and forceful, the physical image the organization needed, I don't deny that. But diligence was more often worn by the women.

I remember one election when I needed 20 new people registered as voters in each precinct. The young volunteers would bring back three or four and a handful of excuses. But there were elder women, some who did not walk easily, who would return with the full number. One of them said to a young person, "You don't win elections with good excuses – you need voters!"

Women like Bessie Jones, Elaine Dunn or Luetta B. Wooldridge, who were managers and coordinators for my campaigns. And they stood with me in difficult times when very few had the will.

Rev. Sarah Goshen, an older Black woman with a calm but convincing demeanor, stood up in a storm of attacks on my character during a controversial and profound personal battle. She admonished the men who

chose to disregard my history of service to my country, and more directly, to the African-Americans in Richmond. Rev. Goshen stood with the same solidarity and courage that defined her fore mothers, "Don't abandon the bridge that brung you 'cross!" she demanded. My spirit rose to the ceiling.

"Don't abandon the bridge that brung you 'cross." It has indeed been a bridge, one more river to cross for Black Americans. Two-hundred fifty years of slavery and Jim Crow seems to have developed a certain 'DNA' in Black women.

Because, to watch as your child is torn away, or your man absolutely emasculated and denied any dignity, to have your body raped and to endure a brutalized life of labor, something had to evolve in the 'DNA' of Black women. A new measure of courage, strength, dignity and faith saved them; the crucible of fortitude. They marched on and we march on today. America is more divided perhaps since slavery itself. But Black women have our backs, still enduring, fighting the good fight.

Women like my own sister, Valerie Richardson Jackson, the former first lady of Atlanta, who persevered with myself as one of the first students integrating our high school. Becoming one of the first black women to attend the Wharton School of Business (now led by a black woman), working and paying her way through, earning her M.B.A.

She went on to market General Foods products and gained a regional role at Trans World Airlines corporate headquarters in New York. Because a strong, smart black woman is not to be passed over, she won the heart of and married a man who was certainly the most consequential politician in the history of Atlanta: Mayor Maynard Jackson. Maynard always said of Valerie, "She



(l-r) Kamala Harris, Valerie Richardson Jackson and Stacey Abrams

enables me."

The nation has recently come to know two more amazing Black women: Democratic activist, Stacey Abrams, and Sen. Kamala Harris; now Vice President-elect. Stacey Abrams showed her ability early, in front of the very Atlanta City Hall that Maynard occupied.

She led a large group of university students calling on the mayor to address student issues. Maynard was impressed and invited her to meet with him. Afterward, he gave Ms. Abrams her first job in politics. The rest is history: a heroic race for governor of Georgia, and a voter registration movement that is unprecedented, and driving the numbers to heights heretofore unseen - a democratic movement that has already become a model for the nation.

Valerie has always been a strong supporter of both Stacey Abrams and Kamala Harris. Three friends, three Black women, three lessons we should take from them – and history. With a Black woman becoming vice-president, we should keep in mind what it took, because we will need it going forward: patience with diligence, courage with wisdom, boldness with conviction. In other words, Black women.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chuck Richardson, a former 18-year veteran of the Richmond City Council, is founder of the National Organization of Rehabilitated Offenders (NORO).



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True Confession

Is it best to confess, tell everything, spill the beans, purge yourself of what's burdening you, bearing you down, sinking you into the quagmire of guilt?

It is said that confession is good for the soul. What is true, is that certain religions take confession so seriously that it's actually a ritual that they go through regularly, as they sit in a darkened booth across from a priest and confess their sins.

I guess it's a sort of catharsis, an unburdening of your sins that makes you

feel lighter afterwards. Some men confess to bartenders, while others seek out psychiatrists. Some women may confess to their friends, but that can be dangerous as people do tend to gossip and carry your business all over town.

Anyway, all that advice about confessing being good for the soul was from long ago. That was then, but I really wonder how wise it is to confess your past to your current partner in these modern times?

Remember the old

Jamaican saying: "Is not everything good fi eat good fi talk?" Some things are best left unsaid.

If you truly love your significant other, shouldn't you be able to confess any transgressions that you may have committed? Or should you leave well enough alone?

If you saw the wife of your best friend sneaking around with another man, holding hands and kissing, should you tell him? To add to your dilemma, should you tell your friend that his wife who you saw sneaking into a hotel room with that other guy, you also dated many years ago? Now you can see the dangers of confessing to not only



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SPRING HEALTH



The April issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community.

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what you saw, but also what you did in the past. Sometimes people do not take confessions very well and may even resent the confessor for unloading all that disturbing data on them.

"If you were my true friend, you wouldn't have told me all that hurtful information, especially after all these years," they might say. And yet, on the flip side, the person may say: "Why did you wait so long to tell me? Thank you anyway."

Shouldn't there be a statute of limitations on confessions? There was this lady who confessed to her husband that she had an affair fifty years ago, a year after they got married. They man filed for divorce immediately.

There are women who choose not to confess their history of transgressions to their men, for they know from experience that a man's fragile ego cannot handle certain types of confession.

How would you feel if after being married for sixteen years, your wife came to you and said: "Honey, I have a confession to make, before I met you, I used to sleep with your best man!"

Her conscience drove her to make that confession. (There, I said it, got a load off my chest, I feel better



TONY
ROBINSON

now.) But what about the person hearing the confession? That burden is often too much to bear.

There are women who confessed to having secret children prior to their marriage but gave them up before for adoption. After years of torment, they may confess to their husbands with disastrous consequences. "Say wha, yu breed for anodder man an neva tell me? Babes, plus the second and third children aren't yours?"

Also, there are men who sire children out of wedlock and never confess this fact. I know of wives who have walked out upon hearing that confession and I have known others who forgave the man and accepted the reality of that child.

Then there are current confessions that people make to each other. "I never really enjoyed making love with you, I just tolerated it to have children. That's why I've been sleeping with your best friend."

It really is a tough call, and many sayings about confessions were from a nobler time, where honor, civility, class and forgiveness were the order of the day.

Nowadays, in this unforgiving world, it may be quite risky to lay true confession on your spouse. The consequences could be dire.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can email Tony Robinson at seido1yard@gmail.com



Which Caribbean Artiste Will Win The 2021 Grammy?

Who will win? Care to take a bet? It's that time of the year again and several Caribbean singers are once more competing for a 2021 GRAMMY Award.

Caribbean artists from Jamaica, Cuba and Puerto Rico made the cut in the Reggae and Latin categories.

In the Reggae Grammy category, Jamaican singer Buju Banton, who has won a Grammy

in the past, was nominated for his new album, *Upside Down 2020*. Also making the cut from Jamaica is Skip Marley, the grandson of reggae legend Bob Marley, got his first Grammy nomination for his 'Higher Place,' the Wailers for 'One World,' and legendary group, Toots and the Maytals for their new album, "Got To Be Tough." The group lost its lead singer, Toots Hibbert earlier this



Toots & the Maytals are up for a Reggae Grammy after losing their lead singer, Toots Hibbert to COVID-19 earlier this year.

year to COVID-19. It is the 6th nomination for the group, which won a Grammy in 2004.

British-born reggae singer, rounded out the 2021 Reggae Grammy nominations for his new

album, 'It All Comes Back To Love.'

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico's Bad Bunny, Ricky Martin and Kany García have been nominated in the Best Latin Pop or Urban

Album category while Edwin Bonilla, also of Puerto Rico and Cuba's José Alberto "El Ruiseñor" were nominated in the Best Tropical Latin Album category.

The 63rd GRAMMY Awards will be broadcast in HDTV and 5.1 surround sound on the CBS Television Network, Sunday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT. It will be hosted by comedian Trevor Noah.

NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean Born Choreographer Drops Lawsuit Against Beyonce And Jay Z



Jamaican Dr. L'Antoinette Stines dropped her lawsuit against Jay-Z and Beyonce.

A Caribbean-born choreographer has dropped a copyright infringement lawsuit against Beyonce and Jay Z alleging the couple used her voice for their 2018 album track "Black Effect" without permission, according to court papers obtained Tuesday.

Jamaican Dr. L'Antoinette Stines, founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of

L'Acadco: A United Caribbean Dance Force, was suing the Carter's claiming they approached her back in 2018 to record her views on love. She said she was told the audio would only be used for promotional purposes. She had said she signed a contract giving them permission to use the audio for those reasons but was shocked when the minute-long recording was used as the intro to the Black Effect track. Stines' June lawsuit had said the move left her feeling "artistically raped," and has sought USD 150,000 in damages.

Stines gave no reason for voluntarily dismissing her claims Monday against the defendants without prejudice - meaning it can be refiled.

NewsAmericasNow.com



This Holiday, You Can Tune In to Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Radio

Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Radio is about to make your holiday brighter.

SiriusXM and the family of Bob Marley last week announced an exclusive year-round channel dedicated to the legacy of Jamaican born reggae legend, Robert Nesta 'Bob' Marley.

'Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Radio' launched on December 3rd on SiriusXM channel 19 and will feature the cultural icon's entire music catalog, both live and recorded, including rare recordings, some of which have never been made available to the public.

The channel, to be curated by the Marley family, will include a wide range of Caribbean music from its inception to present day. Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Radio will also highlight the branches of

his still-growing musical legacy including The Wailers, I-Threes, Tuff Gong International, the record label founded by Marley in the 70's, and his children and grandchildren as they continue to make their own impact on reggae and popular music.

Additionally, the new channel will present specialty programs and take-overs led by family members from three generations. Bob's daughter, award-winning entertainer, fashion designer and author Cedella Marley, will host her own monthly radio series, "Nice Time," inviting listeners into her world for an 'upful bit' of conversation, music and niceness. Friends and family members also reflect on the 40th anniversary of the release of Bob Marley's classic ballad "Redemption Song" and its continued impact on the

world. Grandson, Skip Marley, a recent Grammy nominee for both his debut album and his hit collaboration "Slow Down" with H.E.R., will share some of his favorite moments behind the making of his music.

The channel will also originate shows from Tuff Gong Studios in Jamaica, including "Jam-In," a monthly live music session featuring Jamaica's hottest sound systems and selectors. The December edition is headlined by the legendary Stone Love Movement and features popular Jamaican comedy duo, Ity & Fancy Cat.

For more information on Bob Marley's Tuff Gong Radio visit: siriusxm.com/bobmarleytuffgongradio



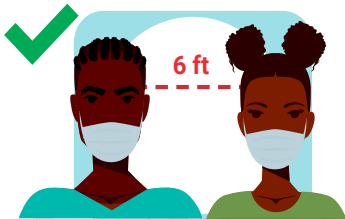
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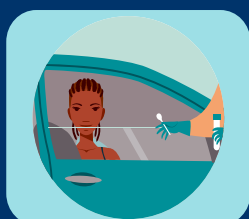


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COVID-Free Anguilla Is Welcoming Visitors Again

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

COVID-free since June 2020, the British Caribbean island of Anguilla has implemented a measured approach to reopening its borders to visitors in order to keep the island safe from the pandemic.

In a recent virtual press conference hosted by CEO & Director General of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, Frank Comito, Anguilla's tourism officials outlined the strategies that have been working for the island.

It's latest Phase 2 opening to short-term guests, which began in early November, includes a visitor-friendly initiative within the confines of COVID protocols.

This allows certified hotels, resorts, and villas to operate in a bubble allowing travelers to experience the properties and amenities in that safety sphere.

It's earlier Phase 1 reopening welcomed returning residents and long-term visitors. Although Anguilla is opening to visitors from countries that may be dealing with high rates of COVID-19 infection, the island's Parliamentary Secretary Economic Development, Natural Resources, Tourism and IT, Quincia Gumbs-Marie, noted that specific health and infection training has been

comprehensive.

Gumbs-Marie explained, that with guidance from the Pan American Health Organization as well as the island's local health authority, and the addition of psycho-social training, employees and staff have gained the confidence necessary to deal with visitors who may have COVID-19.



Quincia Gumbs-Marie

BUBBLE EXPERIENCE

To enter Anguilla, visitors must get pre-approved by going on the island's Tourist Board website ivisitanguilla.com. In fact, all travelers, including returning residents, are required to complete a questionnaire requesting information on length of stay and health-related questions.

In addition, each visitor must upload a negative PCR test that must be taken 3-5 days prior to arrival. Masks are mandatory throughout the ports of Anguilla. Temperature checks as well as a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, that will detect small amounts of genetic material from

COVID-19, will be given upon arrival.

Once visitors get to Anguilla, they will have limited access to ground transportation, such as car rentals, until the traveler has cleared the stay-in-place order.

From the port they are taken by certified ground transportation to their certified property. They will be given a PCR test and will not be allowed to leave the hotel until a negative PCR test is received. However, they can experience the restaurants and beaches at the property. Results are generally available the day after the test is given.

At this point, they will be able to move from property to property and partake in excursions via approved transportation. So, while visitors movements will be somewhat limited, they will still be able to enjoy some amenities Anguilla has to offer while they await full clearance after a second PCR test 10-14 days later.

"It's definitely a bubble experience, or a guided movement experience," said Gumbs. "So, you are allowed a plethora of activities (but) with certain limitations. And it's primarily important in the event that we have guests with COVID-19, we would be able to do contact tracing. But we still want guests to have the same

experience once they get here."

To defray the costs of the multiple COVID tests as well as the island's health surveillance program, including track and trace, travelers will incur some of the cost. For visits of 5 days or less a solo traveler must pay US \$300 while couples must pay US\$500.



Kevin Carty

A family or group will be charged US \$300 for the primary family member and US\$250 for each additional family or group member.

Longer stays of 6-90 days will cost the single visitor US\$400: couples US\$600 and family or group US\$400 for primary member with an additional US\$250 for the remaining members of the group. The Long Stay Digital Nomad Work from Anguilla program also now allows visitors to stay up one year. It costs an individual US\$2,000 while a group or family will have to pay US\$3,000 for the primary applicant, plus US\$250 for each additional person. These long stay costs include extended stay and digital work permit.

in place to protect guests and locals, and has been effective. He observed that the island is known for its repeat visitors and tourism officials are determined to keep it that way.

"For staff in the accommodation sector, we have seen kids grow up over the years. Clients become family and most of the staff are looking forward to welcoming their family and friends back home. So when they return, it is now one big virtual hug," Herbert beamed.

In fact, Kevin Carty, President of the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association (AHTA), says he is encouraged by the numbers of enquiries for the upcoming winter season.

"Coming up to the holiday season, bookings are healthy based on the circumstances", Carty remarked, adding, "Properties do not want to be totally full as part of the COVID protocol, but, it is going probably even better than we expected."

It all comes down to patience, retooling, and training noted Janine Edwards, past President of the AHTA.

"We were put on pause for a few months, but we were very active in that time," Edwards said. "We were upgrading ourselves, we were digesting the information, we were retraining, retooling, and we really took the time to look at every element within our visitor experience. And it is working."



REPEAT VISITORS

Chairman of the Anguilla Tourist Board, Kenroy Herbert, noted that these strategies are

Caribbean Countries See Uptick In COVID-19 Cases

Caribbean countries are reporting increased cases of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) even as they reiterate the need for nationals to follow the various measures and protocols aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.

The Dominican Republic now has over 147 COVID-19 cases and has past 2,300 deaths while Jamaica now has now surpassed 11,000 cases of COVID-19 and reported over 261 deaths.

Guyana has past 5,100 cases and reached 151 deaths while in Barbados, the number of confirmed cases reached 284 as of Dec. 5, 2020.

Suriname, which has over 5,300 cases, has now banned flights from Haiti and Cuba due to "urgent evaluation of passengers from these countries."

The Health Minister, Amar Ramadhin, told a news conference that the measure will apply for the rest of the month. Suriname is classified as a country with "sporadic or cluster cases" according to the international health regulations of the World Health Organization.

In Belize, where the

authorities have implemented a new reporting mechanism, there are now over 7,300 COVID-19 cases and 170 deaths from the virus.

Trinidad and Tobago past 6,700 cases as its death toll reached 121 Saturday.

The news comes as the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC), has slapped a Level 4 COVID-19 risk Level on Aruba, The Bahamas, Belize, Bonaire, Curacao, The Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Saint Martin, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos and the USVI.

And as the US warned nationals to avoid travel to the Caribbean nations of Antigua & Barbuda, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius, The Bahamas, Guyana and The Dominican Republic as Canada advised its nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to Martinique and St. Kitts and Nevis because of COVID-19 cases there.

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Successful Women in Business



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

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Caribbean Christmas Recipes

It's almost Christmas and for many Caribbean nationals, the tradition continues here in the US of ensuring Christmas dishes from their childhood make it on their Christmas menu. Here are some 'ole time' Caribbean Christmas recipes you can add this holiday. Merry Christmas and Bon Appetite.

BLACK CAKE



Black Cake

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. brown sugar
- 1 lb. butter
- 12 eggs, beaten
- 1 lb. flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 teaspoon mixed spices
- ¼ pound mixed peel
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Red Wine

Method

Make a caramel by adding about one pound of the brown sugar to a pot and heating until

it begins to melt.

Add at least a cup on wine and simmer until a dark color is obtained.

Grease and double line an 8-inch cake pan.

Cream the rest of the sugar and butter until smooth or add to an electric mixer and let it do the work for you.

Add eggs one at a time (beaten or unbeaten) and mix. Add in the set fruit and nuts and stir well.

Add enough caramel to make it as dark as desired.

Sift flour, baking powder and spice together.

Add a little at a time and fold in.

Mix into a soft dropping consistency by adding a little more of the wine or rum.

Pour the mixture into the prepared pan and bake in a slow oven at 300 degrees F, for 2 hours on the middle shelf.

Pour some of the remaining wine or rum over immediately after cake it is baked.

Repeat 3 or 4 times.

Serve at room temperature.

Cake can be kept and preserved all year round by reading rum.

GUYANA PEPPER POT

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. of beef
- 1-pound cow heel or cow



Guyana Pepper Pot

foot, bought at the Spanish store in the US

- 1/2 lb. pig's tail that can be bought at a Korean store in the US, UK or Canada (optional)
- 1 cup cassareep from a bottle that can be bought at a West Indian store in the US, UK or Canada.
- 4-5 cinnamon sticks, whole
- 6-8 cloves
- 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper
- 1-ounce sugar
- 2 stalks basil
- 1 bunch fine fresh thyme
- 1 large, chopped onion
- 3 chopped garlic cloves
- Salt to taste
- 16 cups water

Instructions

- Soak pig tails in water to get off salt.
- Wash cow heel with vinegar and rum.
- Cut beef into chunks and wash with vinegar and rum.
- Season meat with fine leaf

thyme.

- Add pig tails and cow heel into a pressure cooker and let it run off all water.
 - Then add water to cover meat and pressure until tender, around 30 minutes.
 - Add beef to another pot and let it run off all water.
 - Remove pressure and turn on tap until steam release.
 - Open and ensure cow heel and pig tails are half tender then remove from water and add in beef.
 - Add cassareep and ensure all of the meat are coated.
 - Add all other ingredients and boil for about one hour on medium heat until meat is tender.
 - Adjust flavor with salt and sugar.
 - Pepperpot is popularly served with a firm bread like the Jamaican hard dough bread.
- Note:* This dish develops flavor when left over a period of days. If left unrefrigerated, it must be reheated to a boil every day.

JAMAICAN SORREL

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups dried sorrel
- 3 oz fresh ginger, grated
- 5 pimento berries
- 6 cups water
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ¾ cup white rum
- Peel of 1 orange

- 2 cinnamon sticks

Method

- Add sorrel, ginger, orange peel, pimento berries and



Jamaican Sorrel

cinnamon stick to a pot.

- Add water.
- Cover and bring to a gentle simmer for about 10 minutes.
- Then simmer for another 30 minutes.
- Strain the liquid into another container to remove solid ingredients.
- Add sugar, lemon juice and rum to sorrel and stir until sugar has dissolved.
- Refrigerate overnight for strongest flavor.
- Pour over ice and enjoy!
- Store the rest in a bottle in the fridge and share.

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Will Caribbean And Other Undocumented Immigrants Be Excluded From US Census Counts?

Will Caribbean and the more than 12 million other undocumented immigrants living in the US be in for an unpleasant Christmas

surprise? Many immigrants and immigrant advocates are holding their collective breaths as they await a ruling from the US Supreme Court

Jamaican Born Former Broward County Mayor Takes On Systemic Racism



Former Broward Mayor and Commissioner, Dale Holness

The Jamaican-born former mayor of Florida's Broward County, Dale Holness, has proposed a task force that would address issues of systemic racism.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reports that the proposal is the third from Holness that attempts to address the issue of systemic racism.

He previously proposed a police review board that would analyze the behaviors of law enforcement, as well as expanding the county's human rights protections to include ethnic hairstyles.

His latest proposal is the creation of a racial equity task force that, according to county records, would take "concrete steps to dismantle identified

systemic racism and create greater racial equity in Broward County."

The task force would respond to complaints from the public, "written or otherwise," and would consist of up to 34 members.

Members of the task force would include Black Lives Matter activists, the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, the New Florida Majority, members of academia, as well as a defense attorney, and prosecutor.

"We've seen the huge disparities that exist within our societies," Holness told the Sun-Sentinel. "It's a matter of how we fix it."



on whether the Donald Trump administration should be allowed to exclude undocumented immigrants living in the United States from the 2020 US Census population count, that is also used to allocate congressional districts to states.

The news comes as for the first time in the 2020 Census, Caribbean nationals and those of Caribbean heritage, were able to self-identify ancestry on the 2020 Census forms, thanks to a 12-year lobbying effort by CaribID's Felicia J. Persaud.

The justices are expected to decide the case on an expedited basis, with a ruling before the end of the year.

The U.S. Constitution requires apportionment of House seats to be based upon the "whole number of persons in each state." Until now, the government's practice was to count all people regardless of their citizenship or immigration status.

The court potentially could dismiss the current legal challenge, a move that would leave open the possibility of subsequent lawsuits after the administration actually takes action.

The court's conservative justices, who hold a 6-3 majority, signaled such a ruling might be premature based on the administration's admission that it does not yet know how or if it will be able to implement the proposal, a facet of Trump's hardline policies on immigration being pursued in his final weeks in office.

Challengers, led by New York state and the American Civil Liberties Union, have argued that Trump's proposal



The US Supreme Court holds the fate of immigrants in its hands. (Stock Image)

would dilute the political clout of states with larger numbers of such immigrants, including heavily Democratic California, by undercounting state populations and depriving them of House seats to the benefit of his fellow Republicans.

The administration also has yet to disclose what method it would use to calculate the number of people it proposes to exclude, or which subsets of immigrants may be targeted.

Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall told the justices the administration could miss a Dec. 31 statutory deadline to finalize a Census Bureau report to Trump containing the final population data including the number of immigrants excluded.

But Conservative Justice, Samuel Alito, said that for the administration to exclude all of the immigrants living in an undocumented capacity in the United States from the population count "seems to me

a monumental task."

"I would think you would be able to tell us whether that remains a realistic possibility at this point," Alito told Wall.

The challengers have argued that Trump's plan could leave several million people uncounted and cause California, Texas and New Jersey to lose House seats.

A three-judge panel in New York ruled against the administration in September.

The number of House districts in the 50 states is based on a state's population count in the decennial national census, which was conducted this year. Democrat Joe Biden is set to become president on Jan. 20th, and could reverse course if the apportionment numbers have not been finalized by then.

Rewritten from Reuters News



Hair Discrimination Ban Passes In Broward

Broward County commissioners last week unanimously agreed to pass a ban on racially based hair discrimination. The hair-texture protected styles include braids, locs, twists, bantu knots and head wraps.

Brenda Morrison, of the Broward County Urban League, was among the women who were interested in the natural hair movement because it addressed the problem of being forced to change hair texture to abide by a racist definition of workplace professional appearance. She celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020.

"Sometimes you get the looks and you wonder why the looks are coming when you're

coming professionally dressed, just like everybody else, ready and able and willing to do the work," said Morrison, a former staff assistant to former Sen. Bill Nelson.

"We understand from a historical standpoint that even just a lot of Black folk have been looking at having to have this continuing conversation for years and years on end, and saying, 'Why is it needed?' ... But then, we look at cases," Morrison added.

Natural hair movement activists want Florida to follow the example of Broward County, California, New York, New Jersey, Washington State, Colorado, Maryland and Virginia have also passed similar bans.

The ban forces employers and school administrators to reconsider rules restricting hairstyles unless the restrictions are related to legitimate health and safety issues.

At the state level, a Florida Senate bill died in the judiciary in March. There is more hope at the federal level. The US House of Representatives passed a bill on Sept. 21, which is now awaiting review by the Senate. Sen. Cory Booker has been pushing for The CROWN Act or the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act since January.

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CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Miramar, Florida, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, for the following seats:

Commission Seat #1
Commission Seat #2
Commission Seat #3

Any qualified Broward County elector whose principal place of residence is in the City of Miramar and who has resided continuously in the City for at least one year immediately preceding the first day of the qualifying period shall be eligible to qualify as a candidate and hold the office.

The qualifying period for candidates in the City of Miramar will begin at **noon, Monday, January 4, 2021** and end at **noon, Monday, January 11, 2021** at the Office of the City Clerk in Miramar Town Center, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar Florida from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and on Friday, January 8, 2021 staff will be at the Miramar Cultural Arts Center, 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar Florida from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a candidate qualifying fee of \$516.75 for the Office of Commissioner.

The election shall be held in accordance with the Charter of the City of Miramar, Florida, and the State of Florida Election Laws.

For further information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (954) 602-3014.

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Virtual Screening Of Reggae Boyz Documentary Puts New Focus On Jamaican Resilience

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Nominated for Best Documentary at the Krakow Film Festival and the German Television Academy Awards, the highly praised “Reggae Boyz” documentary film pays tribute to Jamaican culture, strength, and pride of place on the world stage.

New focus was put on the Boyz again and Jamaican resilience when the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center hosted a virtual screening on November 12th and 15th as part of its Indie Flicks series.

The film had a world premier two years ago at the Krakow Film Festival in Poland and made its American debut in 2019 at the Brooklyn Film Festival in New York and recently also screened at the 13th Chesapeake Film Festival on Oct. 1st. It also played in 17 theaters across the US.

Director/Producer, Till Schauder, saw the worth and potential Jamaica’s national football team exuded and was inspired to tell their story. Knowing that the Reggae Boyz qualified for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, a feat which saw the island experience an unprecedented non-violent period, Schauder was determined to capture the moment in film.

And, in 2018 it became a reality, gaining awards and acclaim in film festivals throughout Europe and the

United States for its unique tapestry of sports, music, and pop culture that characterizes the island.

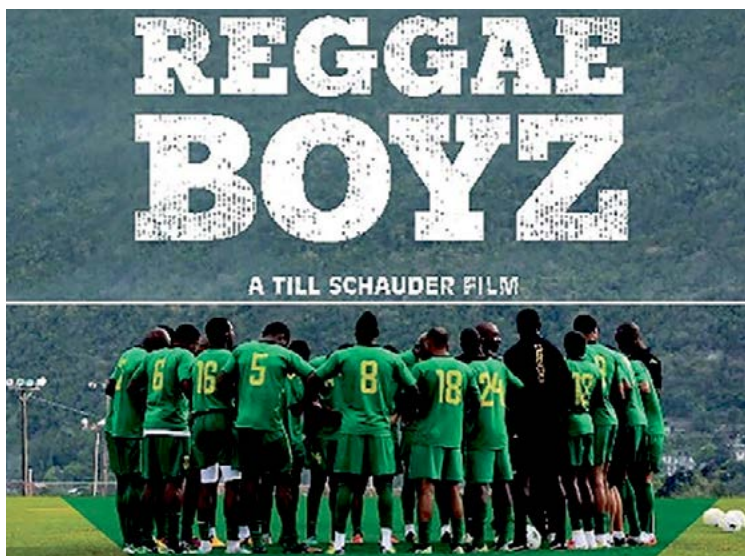
“The film is now timelier than when we filmed it because of everything that has been going on, specifically with Black Lives Matter,” Schauder in a conversation with Caribbean Today. “The scene where Sheldon Shepherd of the NoMaddz band sings the song about having to wash his black skin away, makes it very relevant now.”

The film tells the story of a would-be professional football player, ‘Tuffy’ Anderson, who has hopes of joining Jamaica’s national football team. It follows the team through national and international matches all the way through the 1998 World Cup and beyond.

Schauder seamlessly weaves in historical sports events and personalities, including the new German coach. Through thick and thin, the viewer follow the team’s trajectory and personal lives around their love of reggae music, sports and the cultural flavors of the island.

“I’m told by audiences, including Jamaicans, that the film accurately captures the best of Jamaica,” Schauder said.

Asked about how he was perceived by Jamaicans as he toured the island making the film, the producer explained that as an outsider, a white non-Jamaican, he sought to find a



way to connect with the people through a familiar voice.

“In the documentary community there is a lot of conversation about who should tell what story,” Schauder remarked. “Should a white person go into Jamaica and make a film about the country? I was aware of that when I made the film. And just like the film that I made in Iran, where I was also an outsider, I made sure to have a character whose point of view I could adapt.”

He found that character in the national football team’s coach, German-born Winfried Schäfer. Being German himself, Schauder naturally connected with the coach, learning from him what it felt like to live in Jamaica and seeing the island through a sports lens.

“So, I could tell the story from this guy’s perspective, how he experienced the island,” he said. “That gave me the freedom to do what I felt was authentic. The coach was in a way an extension of my perspective. My idea was never to create a tell-all about Jamaica, it’s more a particular perspective from an outsider.”

The Reggae Boyz have been through a series of coaches over the years, amongst them was football hero and former midfielder for the team, Theodore Whitmore, OD. Whitmore carried the team to the 1998 World Cup, but shortly after resigned as coach. Then in comes noted German coach, Winfried Schäfer. A very gregarious, flamboyant leader, Schäfer took charge of the

Reggae Boyz, reshaping them into a more relaxed yet still aggressive team. According to Schauder, the new coach brought back a little bit of fun with his style and personality.

The producer wanted to highlight not just the team’s love of football, but also the music of the island that helped inspire and define them.

“When I saw the imprint that music has on the country and the kind of impact that this tiny island has on the world, I saw immediately the potential for Jamaica,” said Schauder, who met band members from the group NoMaddz and fell in love with their style and passion for the music.

He and coach Schäfer met other musicians through the band, including Earl ‘Chinna’ Smith and Bunny Wailer, both of whom were part of the legendary Bob Marley & the Wailers.

“It’s just amazing the diversity and the depth of talent that exists in Jamaica,” said Schauder. “And for coach Schäfer this was eye-opening. For him to see the legacy of Bob Marley and Bunny Wailer’s contribution to that heritage, he was starstruck knowing that this is a cultural heavy hitter.”

For more information and future screenings of the film go to the Reggae Boyz facebook page: [facebook.com/ReggaeBoyzMovie](https://www.facebook.com/ReggaeBoyzMovie)



Windies Skipper Calls For ‘Soul-Searching’ Ahead Of Next Test

Captain Jason Holder has called for “soul-searching” ahead of the next test match this week against New Zealand, after the bruised West Indies suffered a humiliating innings defeat inside four days in the opening Test against the Kiwis at Seddon Park.

The Windies started the penultimate day of the first test still trailing by 185 runs after being asked to follow on and were dismissed for 247 about 40 minutes before lunch, despite a second Test hundred from Jermaine Blackwood.

Singling out the batting group in particular, Holder said it was crucial they adapted faster to the conditions, especially with not much time for recovery with the second Test beginning on Dec. 10th, Thursday evening, Eastern Caribbean time.

“We’ve just got to do some soul-searching. It’s not a big turnaround in between games, just a few days and we’re back into it again so it’s a matter for



West Indies Skipper Jason Holder

the batters just to work it out a little more and find ways to get through,” Holder told a news conference.

“Ideally, I thought the preparation was spot on. I don’t know how much longer we could come up here and spend prior to a tour. You had two weeks quarantine, two-and-a-half weeks of preparation – probably three weeks – preparing for this Test match. I think that is enough time.”

West Indies were rolled

over for 138 in their first innings on Saturday’s third day after resuming on an overnight 49 without loss, in reply to New Zealand’s mammoth 519 for seven declared.

Following on by 381 runs, West Indies were reduced to 27 for four in their second innings and the match was extended into the fourth day only due to an eventual 155-run seventh wicket stand Blackwood and

the tail-ender Alzarri Joseph who made a career-best 86. Blackwood, on 80 at the start of Sunday’s penultimate day, finished on 104 – his second Test hundred.

Pointing to the collapses in both innings, Holder said his side needed to find the courage to fight back in the upcoming test.

Rewritten from CMC



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CDC Urged To Prioritize Teachers, School Staff For Coronavirus Vaccine

An Alliance Of Labor organizations and trade groups representing teachers, principals and support staff is pressuring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prioritize access to a coronavirus vaccine for the country's 5 million public school employees as the first approved immunizations hit the market in the U.S.

With the majority of the country's schools closed for in-person learning or offering limited in-person instruction through a hybrid model – and as the number of districts forced to go all virtual climbs amid an uncontrollable surge in coronavirus infections – the heads of the powerful education groups are offering a compelling argument: If you want to open schools, vaccinate us first.

"I'm a big believer that educators should have priority after health care workers," says Randi Weingarten, president of the 1.7 million-member

American Federation of Teachers. "But coming right after that, those in schools that are reopening in person or have reopened in person, should be a very close second priority."

The sentiments are echoed in letters and public comments to CDC officials and the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine,

which is consulting with the federal government on how to prioritize certain populations in the U.S. for the coming vaccines. The national education organizations hope the CDC recommending educators and school staff for vaccination priority could change that and remove one of the biggest barriers to reestablishing a

functioning public education system that largely collapsed for more than 50 million children in March.

Rewritten from US News And World Report



Jamaican Rhodes Scholar Is Wesleyan University Student

Jamaican Fitzroy Wickham has achieved the honor of being a 2021 Rhodes Scholar.

But Wickham, a student in neuroscience at Wesleyan University, said he almost did not apply. He was encouraged to apply by his mentor, Dr. Dennis Minott, nearly a year before.

Wickham was motivated to in 2020 after he heard his former high school principal Raymond Treasure say the Jamaica's first Rhodes Scholar had come from York Castle High School more than 100 years before and decided he would apply "just to get the feel of going through the process." He thought he would re-apply the next year if he didn't make it this time.

Wickham was announced as the winner on November 19, 2020, at King's House and will now join the list of other Jamaicans to have been awarded the prestigious scholarship, including Norman Manley, Noel Nethersole, Rex Nettleford, Dudley Thompson and Hector Wynter. The Rhodes Scholarship allows outstanding students worldwide to study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. It is the most prestigious of the international scholarship programs and also the oldest, first being awarded in 1902.



Fitzroy Wickham

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Good News For Student Loans This Holiday

The US Education Department has extended the interest-free pause on federal student loans by one month.

The action, which affects roughly 37 million borrowers, extends the forbearance period and the suspension in debt collections activity set to expire December 31, 2020.

“The coronavirus pandemic has presented challenges for many students and borrowers, and this temporary pause in

payments will help those who have been impacted,” U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, said in a statement.

“The added time also allows Congress to do its job and determine what measures it believes are necessary and appropriate. The Congress, not the Executive Branch, is in charge of student loan policy.”

Non-payments will continue to count towards payments borrowers are

required to make on their income-based repayment plan, loan rehabilitation agreement, or efforts towards Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

The payment pause has been in effect since March, after executive action by President Donald Trump amid the coronavirus pandemic, and will now end on January 31, 2021 unless extended by the incoming Biden administration.

The protections for

federally held student loans were originally set to expire on September 30, as codified by the CARES Act. ED previously extended that to December 30, 2020, and now to January 31, 2021.

The authority to enact the extensions came under the HEROES Act of 2003, ED stated in Friday’s press release, which allows ED to “set all federal student loan interest rates to zero and

automatically enter borrowers into administrative forbearance, allowing them to defer payments without financial penalty.”

Democratic lawmakers have been asking for a longer extension in addition to forgiveness of federally held student loans.

Rewritten From Yahoo Finance



Florida Department of Education Issues Emergency Order Regarding Spring Educational Options

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida Department of Education on Dec. 2, 2020, issued an emergency order that includes maintaining a parent’s right to choose what educational option best fits the needs of their family.

This includes innovative learning options that benefit students, families and school employees; guaranteeing the fully panoply of services for at-risk students; and progress monitoring for all students, while ensuring financial flexibility and stability for school districts and charter schools.

In addition, the order, EO-07 requires educational interventions for students who may be falling behind,



(Stock image – online learning)

especially at-risk students, and rewards school districts and

individual charter schools that have exceeded their projected

enrollment.

“Earlier this year, I directed Commissioner Corcoran to issue an emergency order to ensure every parent in the state of Florida had the option during the pandemic to decide whether their child learns in the classroom or learns remotely,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “This new order doubles down on our commitment to give parents that critical flexibility and takes further steps to reduce achievement gaps caused by remote learning.”

“We have said from the start that we must show compassion and grace as we make important decisions

to get students back in the classroom,” said Commissioner Richard Corcoran. “This emergency order delivers on our promise to be diligent and instill confidence in families, which allows students to continue to receive a world-class education. While nearly 65% of students are receiving face-to-face instruction, nearly 1.2 million students are still learning through distance learning. The good news is, we maintained maximum flexibility and options for parents, students, and districts while adding well-needed tools to address the needs of struggling students and provide interventions to close achievement gaps.”



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UWI Honorary Degrees For 14 Stellar Caribbean Nationals

Former St. Kitts-Nevis prime minister, Sir Kennedy Simmonds, is among 14 people who will receive honorary degrees from the University of the West Indies (The UWI) at its 2020 graduation ceremonies early next year.

Sir Kennedy, who is a National Hero in his homeland, is being praised for leading the twin island Federation into full independence from Britain in 1983. He will receive the Doctor of Science (DSc) for Public Service leadership from the Open Campus of The UWI.

The UWI said that the graduation ceremonies, which are scheduled to take place from January 11–16, next year in a mix of blended, virtual formats, will celebrate a graduating class of approximately 8500 students across the region.

"In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, The UWI graduations will retain the tradition of recognizing Caribbean excellence through the conferral of honorary degrees awarded for a wide variety of fields such as music, theatre, public service, medicine, agricultural science and entrepreneurship among others.

The awards were approved by the University Council, which has sanctioned over 500 honorary degrees since 1965.



Former St. Kitts-Nevis prime minister, Sir Kennedy Simmonds, is among 14 people who will receive honorary degrees from the University of the West Indies.

The 2020 honorary graduands to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to regional and international development are Sonita Alleyne of Barbados, who will receive the Doctor of Letters (DLitt) for Entrepreneurship and contributions to Journalism; Professor Juliet M. Daniel of Barbados for her work in Medicine and Cancer research. She will receive the Doctor of Science (DSc) from the Cave Hill campus of The UWI, which will also confer the same degree on Dr. Julio Frenk of the USA for Leadership in the field of Medicine.

Veteran St. Vincent and the Grenadines musician, composer and arranger, Franklyn McIntosh

will receive the Doctor of Letters for his work as a Musical Director/Composer from the Open Campus.

But McIntosh will not be the only musician to be honored. The St. Augustine campus will honor ace Trinidad and Tobago steelpan musician, Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe with the Doctor of Letters for steelpan arrangement,

composition, and performance. It will confer a similar degree on well-known storyteller, Paul Keens-Douglas for his work in Culture and the Arts.

Professor Edgar Julian Duncan of St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be awarded the Doctor of Science for his contributions to Caribbean Science and Agriculture, while Dominico Felipe Martina of Curacao will receive the Doctor of Laws (LLD) for Public Service leadership.

The Mona campus will confer the Doctor of Laws on Glen Christian of Jamaica for Entrepreneurship, while a Doctor of Science Degree will be conferred on the Antigua

and Barbuda Governor General, Sir Rodney Errey Lawrence Williams for Medicine and Public Service.

The Mona campus will also honor Jamaican Robert E. Levy with the Doctor of Laws degree for Entrepreneurship, conferring the same degree on Hilary Grace Sherlock of Jamaica for her work in Special Disabilities Education, Professor E. Albert Reece of Jamaica/USA will receive the Doctor of Science degree for his leadership in the field of Medicine.

"The UWI honorary degree is conferred on persons who have distinguished themselves by their substantial contribution to the development of the region and or the advancement of the University. Individuals upon whom such a high honor has been bestowed are not referred to as "Doctor" but are entitled to use the abbreviated honorary degree behind his or her name," the UWI added.

Rewritten from CMC



COVID-19 Leads To Postponement Of National Math And Reading Tests

BY KANISHKA SINGH

National math and reading tests used to track U.S. students' knowledge in those subjects are being postponed until 2022 due to the coronavirus outbreak, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) says.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as "the nation's report card," previously had been planned to be held at the beginning of 2021 for hundreds of thousands of fourth and eighth graders in the United States.

"I have determined that NCES cannot at this time conduct a national-level assessment in a manner with sufficient validity and reliability to meet the mandate of the law", NCES Commissioner James

Woodworth said on Wednesday. "I was obviously concerned about sending outsiders into schools and possibly increasing the risk of COVID transmission", he said.

The NAEP assessments are a key indicator of educational progress in the United States with trends going back decades. Woodworth said a change in operations and lack of access for students to be assessed means that NAEP would not be able to produce estimates of students' knowledge when compared to either past or future national or state estimates.

Postponing the tests until 2022 will allow time for conditions to stabilize, the NCES commissioner said.



New Study Finds Students Stressed From COVID-19

A fall 2020 survey by the Washington, D.C.-based Active Minds has found that many students have already experienced stress, anxiety or other mental health challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

More than 3,000 respondents participated in the survey by the non-profit organization that supports mental health awareness and education for students, with 87 percent expressing that they have experienced stress or anxiety.

Another 60 percent indicated they had experienced an increase in depression. More than 77 percent felt lonely or isolated.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY FOUND:

- Twenty percent of college students said their mental health has worsened under COVID-19.
- Forty-eight percent say they experienced financial setbacks due to COVID-19.
- Among all students, 38 percent surveyed said they are having

trouble focusing on studies and/or work was more stressful.

- Seventy-four percent said they are challenged in maintaining a routine.
- 8 in 10 said they are struggling to focus on school or avoid distractions.
- A whopping 55 percent said they do not know where to go for help.
- And the number one concern students hope administrators are considering right now is support.




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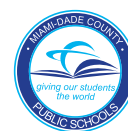
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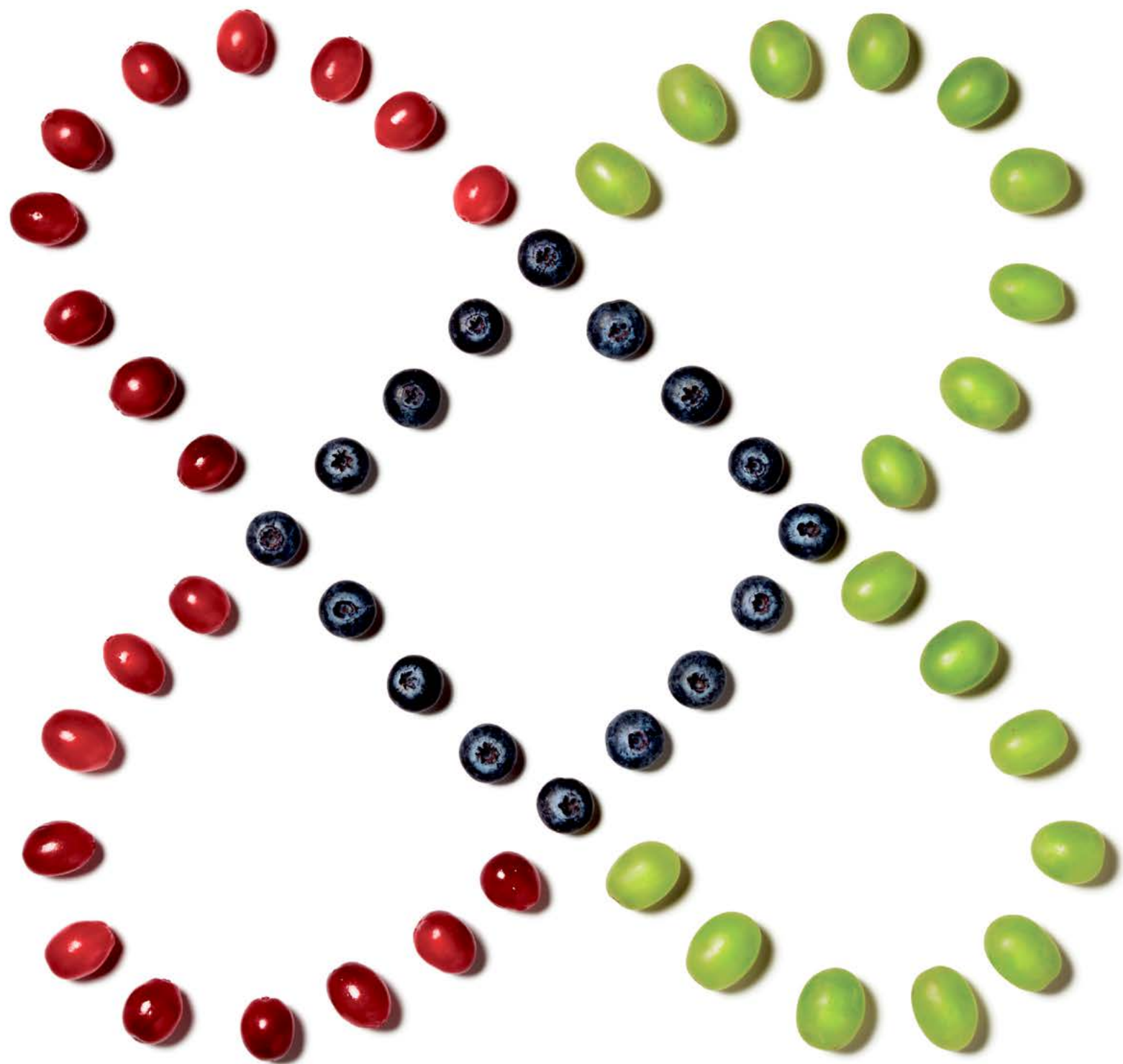
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