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Immigrant leaders demand Joe Biden stop all deportations (UnitedWeDream image)

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Regional Caribbean News Round Up

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

REGIONAL

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) is set to float a US\$60 million-dollar bond on the Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange. The goal is to get out of financial trouble according to Vice-chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.

It is the first time UWI has gone to the capital market – in its 73-year history. The money raised will be used to build a state-of-the-art offshore medical school in the twin-island state, a move which could lead to more than 25 per cent of The UWI's revenue moving forward.

In addition, there is a plan for The UWI's Open Campus to expand significantly by increasing its enrollment from 8 000 students to 80 000 over a short period, which could also bring in millions over the next three years. It's all in the push to become less dependent on regional governments and a player as a commercial entity.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

The US government has cited the Citizenship by Investment Program in three Caribbean countries for "lack of transparency" in the latest Human Rights Report released Tuesday.

In the 'Corruption and Lack of Transparency in Government,' section, the 2020 report identifies the CIP programs in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica and St. Kitts & Nevis as citizen concerns on oversight and corruption due to a lack of openness.

In Antigua & Barbuda, the US pointed to reports of government corruption by the media and private citizens including the September 2020 clash of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and a prominent member of his political party, who traded public and specific accusations of corruption in government procurement and other areas that neither person refuted.

In Dominica, the US report pointed to local media and opposition leadership, who continue to raise allegations of corruption within the government, including in the Citizenship by Investment program and pointed to the fact that while the law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials ... the government implemented the law



The University of the West Indies (The UWI) is set to float a US\$60 million dollar bond on the Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange.

inconsistently."

And in St. Kitts & Nevis, the US report pointed to media and private citizens reporting on government corruption "occasionally" even as citizens "expressed concern about the lack of financial oversight of revenues generated by the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) program."

But the US report also pointed out that the St. Kitts & Nevis Timothy Harris government introduced security measures in 2018 to make the CBI process more transparent and began vetting investors.

Though the report noted that "the government did not publicize the number of passports issued through CBI or the nationalities of the passport holders."

The CIP Programs in the Eastern Caribbean countries have been a source of continued criticism by the US and many nationals locally who question the use of "donation" funds that are part of the attractive offer for a second passport in these jurisdictions and visa free travel to between 152 and 162 countries.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) digital currency, DCash, has been launched, starting with Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia.

ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine, in making the announcement, urged people to get on board with this "safer, faster and cheaper" form of payment. "The future of the EC dollar is digital, so let's make history together," he said.

The ECCB partnered with Bitt Inc to develop the securely minted digital version of the EC

dollar.

"Bitt is very proud to provide the ECCB with our full stack of digital currency management systems to enhance the financial services within their member countries," said CEO of Bitt, Brian Popelka. "The past two years of this partnership have developed from intense consultations between the Bitt team and the ECCB to our team supporting the ECCB."

DCash, considered legal tender, is a real-time payment option available within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) and offers a safer, faster, cheaper method for making payments and sending/receiving funds to and from other DCash users and merchants.

Consumers can access it via the official App, the DCash Wallet, and conduct financial transactions using their smart devices. DCash can be obtained from participating commercial banks, credit unions or other authorized institutions.

Consumers can sign up to use DCash, either through a participating financial institution or via an authorized DCash agent.

The ECCB said it launched the DCash pilot to address the issues of the relatively high cost of current payment methods and banking services; inadequacy of banking services in addressing the needs of various customers; and inefficient methods of settling cheque transactions, which slow the pace of commerce.

The objectives of the pilot include increasing opportunities for financial inclusion, growth, competitiveness, and resilience for citizens of the ECCU.

JAMAICA

Amid public outrage over

the recent murder of a young woman, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has sought to assure that the government is working to develop further strategies and put in place impactful policies to deal decisively with violence.

Holness was responding to a statement on tackling violence, made by Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange, in the House of Representatives, triggered by the murder of 20-year-old accounting clerk, Khanice Jackson.

The PM informed that the National Commission for Violence Prevention that he empaneled in 2019 has started its work and recently presented its national strategic plan to him, which he has approved.

The Commission, which is chaired by internationally renowned researcher Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan, is mandated to conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private violence prevention programs as well as the strategies of the Government.

Its purpose is to identify gaps in the prevention and intervention services and to make recommendations with respect to violence prevention and intervention program.

ARUBA

The Prime Minister of the Dutch Caribbean Island of Aruba, Evelyn Weaver-Croes has resigned.

Weaver-Croes, the island's first female prime minister who came into power in November 2017, resigned after prosecutors announced an investigation into one of the parties making up her ruling coalition for suspected embezzlement of funds. A government statement said Parliament has been dissolved and a new date for elections will be announced shortly. However, Weaver-Croes will handle pending government business, including the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, until a new government is installed.

GRENADA

Another Caribbean country is looking at decriminalizing the use of marijuana amid the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grenada is reportedly looking to legalize the controversial herb, according to local reports. The

Marijuana Decriminalization Committee has confirmed that proposed legislation looking towards decriminalizing is presently before the Cabinet of Ministers for discussion. The next step will be public consultation.

Agriculture Minister Peter David is one of three members tasked with coming up with the best way Grenada can enforce aspects of the CARICOM's Marijuana commission report.

In December 2020, Grenada Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, in a public meeting locally, said the country will develop its own model for cultivating, distribution, supplying and use of marijuana as it moves forward to enforce an aspect of the Marijuana Commission report. The hope is that marijuana use for recreational purposes will be decriminalized and or legalized.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

A Caribbean businessman is now facing two sexual offences against a minor.

Trinidad & Tobago businessman Emile Elias, executive chairman of NH International (Caribbean Ltd.), is accused of sexual grooming and sexual penetration of a 17-year-old girl.

The offences were alleged to have taken place between September 1, 2019, and November 30, 2019. Elias, 84, is accused of meeting with the then 17-year-old girl between September 1 and November 30, 2019 with the intent of grooming her for penetration.

On November 21, 2019, it is alleged that Elias, of Fairways Maraval, penetrated the child. After the charges were laid on March 10, 2021, Elias was granted station bail of \$100,000 at the West End Police Station. He will next appear before a Port of Spain Magistrate on March 24th.

He was warned about the penalties of leaving the country and not appearing in court. Elias has insisted he is innocent. In a media statement through his publicist, Alfred Aguiton, he said he "looks forward to establishing his innocence under the due process of law."

NH International is a major Caribbean construction company that has built many major resorts including Range Developments. On the company's website, Elias' biography says he is the son of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Can We Talk?

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

Biden's Deportations!

"My family and I were placed into a room with about two other Haitian families. I was never told why we were waiting and going through this process. Everyone began crying because we realized we were going to be deported. I began thinking many bad thoughts because we were about to be returned to a country that we hoped to never return to again."

Those are the exact words of one Haitian immigrant who was deported within weeks of President Joe Biden taking office. His story and those of many more are told in a new report, 'The Invisible Wall,' published by the Haitian Bridge Alliance, the Quixote Center, and the UndocuBlack Network.

It comes as the Biden administration has so far deported more Haitians in a few weeks than the Donald Trump administration did in a whole year; all with the use of a highly controversial Trump-era public health order, Title 42.

At least 2,200 Haitians - including hundreds of children and infants - have been deported since February 1, 2021. It comes as Haiti is in a political crisis again, as some claim Jovenel Moïse, the country's president, is seeking to hold extend his power illegally and create a dictatorship.

The 1944 Public Health Service Act was invoked a year ago by the Trump administration as grounds for summary expulsion of migrants because of the supposed health risk immigrant asylum seekers possibly pose during the COVID pandemic. It gives US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE agents working for the U.S. government, the power to suspend entry of people or goods for public-health reasons.

And while the Biden team has sought to place a moratorium on deportations of immigrants already in the country which has been blocked by a court order, it has not stopped Title 42 expulsions of newly arrived migrants.

The report found the pace of deportation flights to Haiti in particular, had increased dramatically. Since January 20, 2021, there have been more than 90 deportation flights from the U.S. with at least 14 of them landing in Haiti, VICE quoted Jake Johnston, a senior research associate at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, who has been tracking ICE deportation flights, as saying.

"The Biden-Harris Administration has continued cruelty against immigrants," said Patrice Lawrence, co-director of the UndocuBlack Network. "We hope that this will not be their legacy. It is cruel to use Title 42 as a loophole for



Haitians deplane after being deported back to Haiti recently.

deporting immigrants in general and Black migrants in particular. It is a euphemism for removals and deportation of immigrants which the Trump Administration deemed expendable in the wider context of its eugenic agenda of creating a Whiter America and atmosphere of nativism. The Biden-Harris Administration continues to ignore the cry and plight of immigrants that are being forced to board a plane and are taken to the very places they escaped from."

"Since Biden's accession to the presidency, we've witnessed an increase in deportations at a much higher rate," Jean Négot Bonheur Delva, the head of Haiti's Office of National Migration (ONM) told VICE. "For example, it used to be two flights a month. But since the beginning of February, we've had about 15 flights from the U.S."

Many Haitian asylum seekers have been also deported to Mexico, where they are not from and don't speak the language. Some of these families reported that U.S. immigration authorities threw away their personal belongings after holding them in detention without a shower for days.

They say they did not have a chance to file for asylum, and now face significant risk of exploitation and anti-Black violence in Mexico because they stand out as Black migrants.

Human Rights First is among rights organizations urging the Biden/Harris administration to restart and improve the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (HFRP), including authorizing the National Visa Center (NVC) to issue new invitations for eligible petitioners to apply.

"We continue to hope that the Biden-Harris Administration will change course and not continue the same draconian, cruel, evil, and inhumane practices of the Trump Administration," the organization

much needed protection, and honor their promises to our Black immigrant communities," the letter added.

Ironically, Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, both with Cuban roots, have urged the Biden administration to stop the deportations given Haiti's current state of affairs.

In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, the senators called for Haitians in the U.S. to remain under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation.

"Haiti's protracted political crisis exacerbates the severe and prolonged humanitarian needs sparked by the 2010 earthquake," wrote the senators. The senators say the move would cover up

to 55,000 Haitians in the U.S., including current TPS recipients.

So far, the Biden administration has not responded even though it has offers TPS to nationals of Venezuela and Myanmar. On April 1, 2021, another deportation flight was scheduled to leave Miami -loaded with undocumented migrants to Haiti.

Steven Forester, the Miami-based immigration policy coordinator for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, says the Biden policy contradicts what then candidate Biden told Haitians last year as he sought their votes.

"President Biden when he was in Miami said he would end deportations to Haiti," Forester said. "He didn't say, 'There's a technical loophole, we'll call it something else and still deport people.' So, he's breaking his promise to the Haitian community. This is just another example of Haitians getting the short end of the immigration policy stick."

~ Written by CT Staff Writer and compiled from multiple sources.



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: APRIL 23, 2021

Pregnant Haitian Immigrant Forced To Search For Husband After Separation

BY MIMI DWYER

Nehemie Montrose, a mother-to-be from Haiti, stood anxiously outside a respite center for migrants in Del Rio, Texas, waiting for the daily border patrol buses dropping off migrants who had recently crossed the U.S.-Mexico border.

For five days Montrose, 29, had waited and watched people get off the buses in single file. Again her husband, Josue Macon, was not among them. They had crossed the Rio Grande river that separates Texas from Mexico days earlier and been taken into custody by U.S. border patrol agents. She had not seen him since.

Inside a border patrol station, the couple was separated and Josue was sent to a men's outdoor holding area, Nehemie said. That was the last she saw of him before she was taken to the center in Del Rio, Texas, where she now waited for any word of his whereabouts. "Every day I think my husband is coming," Montrose said as she sat outside the center on Sunday afternoon. "I wait so much and he doesn't come." She clasped her palms together. She had written Josue's name on one of them with a pen, and added a Spanish inscription: "I miss my love. I am suffering so much."

Cases like Montrose's highlight the scramble on the ground as increasing number of migrants arrive at crowded border patrol facilities, and U.S. authorities have to make swift case-by-case calls about whom to release, whom to detain and whom to expel.

A SEPARATION

After U.S. border patrol separated Montrose and her husband in custody, she fell asleep for a few hours. When she awoke

and asked about her husband, she was told he was gone, she said.

In the Spanish she had picked up since leaving Haiti three years earlier, Montrose said she begged officers for help. She told them she was pregnant, that the couple had planned to go to his family in the United States, whom she had never met. How could she go there without him? She said her pleas for help went unanswered. Instead, she was put on a bus and taken to the Val Verde Border Humanitarian Coalition (VVBHC), an organization that has been helping released migrants in the border town of Del Rio and runs the respite center. She does not understand why she was released but her husband was not.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment on the specifics of Nehemie's case. It said in a statement that migrants could be released pending an immigration hearing on a "case-by-case" basis, taking into consideration "legal requirements, COVID-19 protocols, changes in Mexican law, U.S. holding capacity, and the health situation of the individual." The Biden administration has hammered the message that the border is closed and that most arriving migrants, other than children traveling without legal guardians, will be expelled from the country under a Trump-era public health order put in place to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus.

But in practice, the government is releasing thousands of migrants, mostly families, in Del Rio, the Rio Grande Valley, and elsewhere, in part due to a change in law in one Mexican state that limits which families the United States can return.

Tiffany Burrow, director of operations for the VVBHC, told



Migrants from Haiti walk across the Zaragoza-Ysleta international border bridge after being deported from the United States, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. (REUTERS)

Reuters she has seen 100 people released on average per day to the facility since the end of February, mostly Haitian families.

She said cases like Montrose's, where released migrants have no idea what has happened to family members they had been traveling with, were a daily occurrence.

On the same day Nehemie spoke to Reuters outside the center, a Venezuelan husband and his pregnant wife were holding vigil for his mother, who had not been released with them. They, too, hoped she would arrive on the bus. Like Josue, she did not.

'I FEEL AWFUL'

All around Montrose at the respite center, families were enjoying their first moments of freedom in the United States — children rode tricycles and kicked soccer balls while their parents tried to sort out their onward travel, asking volunteers for help as they booked tickets to their loved ones.

Montrose could not bring herself to talk to anyone. Watching couples get off the bus together was particularly hard for her. Her voice broke. "I feel awful when someone comes with their husband and I don't have mine,"

she said.

Montrose had no money and no way to communicate with him. Josue carried all of the couple's cash and their shared cellphone. The Del Rio center has no overnight capacity, so a pastor paid for her to stay in a motel for a few nights. She called her husband's phone repeatedly from the center, but the calls did not go through.

While the separation of adult family members in immigration is not new, advocates are calling on the Biden administration to fulfill its promise of a more humane immigration system by allowing families like Nehemie's to stay together, or reunifying those that have been separated.

Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, an organization focused on helping Black immigrants, said under former President Donald Trump she saw cases where pregnant women were released but their partners were detained and deported.

This has left behind "a slew of single women and fatherless children whose fathers and partners cannot do anything to be reunited with their families," she said.

By Sunday, Montrose knew

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Regional Caribbean News Round Up

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Lebanese immigrants and "his balanced and visionary leadership has seen him build the leading construction company in Trinidad and the Eastern Caribbean."

Elias was granted \$100,000 bail by a Justice of the Peace (JP) after being charged, appeared virtually before Port-of-Spain Magistrate Adia Mohammed. During the hearing, Mohammed read the charges to 84-year-old Elias, who was not called upon to plead. He is expected to reappear in court on May 19.

GUYANA

Four soldiers in a CARICOM nation have been dismissed after being charged with rape. The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) dismissed four ranks in relation to an allegation of rape. The GDF also disciplined two officers.

The GDF said that it had convened its own Board of Inquiry (BoI) to investigate the circumstances which led to the allegation of rape being levelled against the ranks and the BOI found that the ranks seriously breached operational orders and were therefore disciplined accordingly.

Meanwhile, the Guyana Police Force charged and placed before the court three of the ex-soldiers in relation to the rape allegation. The police say that they are awaiting advice from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in relation to

the fourth rank.

CUBA

Cuba has begun vaccinating 150,000 frontline workers with its own vaccines as part of the final phase of a clinical trial of the country's leading COVID-19 vaccine candidate amid a surge in cases.

The shots using the Soberana 2 vaccine targets medical and other personnel at high risk, the authorities said. Soberana 2 has been in the final phase of a clinical trial for the past three weeks involving 44,000 volunteers from the general population.

The Communist-run Caribbean island nation, which has long experience with developing and exporting vaccines, is one of a handful in the region that have not started vaccinating against COVID, as it is counting on its own candidates.

Cuba's drug regulatory authority on Thursday also approved a second COVID-19 vaccine candidate for late-stage clinical trials called Abdala. Cuba is going through its worst coronavirus outbreak since the start of the pandemic after opening its borders late last year.

BELIZE

The US State Department is warning nationals to reconsider travel to the CARICOM Central American nation of Belize.

The March 29th update to Level 3 is due to The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 warning on the country. Belize currently has over 12,415 cases of infections and 317 deaths.

The warning comes as the US government pointed to corruption and a lack of transparency in the latest Human Rights Report.

The report says while the law in Belize provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, "the government did not implement the law effectively, and officials often engaged in corrupt practices with impunity."

BARBADOS

Barbados' new minimum wage is now in effect, despite concerns expressed by the private sector that the timing is wrong.

The hourly rate is now BDS\$8.50 (US\$4.25). The new minimum wage was cited in the Official Gazette dated March 30, 2021, and Prime Minister Mia Mottley pointed out that there was consultation at every stage of the process. Acknowledging that there would be adjustments and consequences as a result of the increase in the minimum wage, the Prime Minister noted that history has shown that those benefitting contributed more to the economic activity in the country.

~ *Rewritten and Compiled From CMC, NewsAmericasNow.com and Reuters*



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Will A Shirley Chisholm Statue Grace Capitol Hill?

Could the US Capitol see a statue of late Caribbean American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm?

Current Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman, Yvette D. Clarke, hopes so. Clarke has collaborated with Georgia's newly-elected Democratic Senator, the Rev. Raphael Warnock, in introducing H.R. 2198/S. 032. The measure was previously introduced in the 116th United States Congress by then Senator Kamala Harris and Clarke, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of late Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Chisholm for placement in the US Capitol.

In 1968, Chisholm, the daughter of a Barbadian mother and Guyanese father, was elected to represent New York's then 12th Congressional District, in the heart of Brooklyn, in the US House of Representatives.

In doing so, she became the first Black woman to serve in the US Congress.

This action would become the first of many firsts for Chisholm. In 1969, she co-founded the US Congressional Black Caucus; and, in 1972, she became the first Black woman and first Caribbean American woman to seek the nomination for President of the United States from a major political party.

Clarke – the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn – said this paved the way for Harris's own run for the US vice presidency.

Harris, now US Vice President, is the daughter of a Jamaican father and Indian mother.

Beyond her legacy as a trailblazer, Clarke said Chisholm's legacy as a passionate legislator left lasting imprints on men, women and children around the country.

"From her efforts to expand family healthcare services to her fight for a higher minimum wage to her commitment to ensuring women and minorities had the necessary tools to overcome

discrimination and oppression, Chisholm's dedication to fairness and equality never wavered," she told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC). "Today, our country has a Black woman serving in our Executive Branch. We need to show young people this is not something that happened by accident. It took passion and dedication. It took someone who was unbought and unbossed."

"It is only fitting for a statue of Shirley Chisholm to reside in the halls of Congress, the institution she changed forever with her wit, passion, vision and determined leadership," Rev. Warnock added.

Today, the United States Capitol houses one full-length statue of a Black woman – that of civil rights icon Rosa Parks.

Within the year, it is expected to honor Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the National Council for Negro Women, with her own full-length statue, Clarke said.

"Beyond these two statues, there are no current plans to memorialize Black women in this manner in the Capitol," she said. "When considering the incredible contributions Black women have made to the United States throughout its history in the areas of government, medicine, science, education, and any number of fields, an immediate need for further representation in memorials becomes apparent."

The first African-American Congresswoman, Shirley Anita Chisholm (1924–2005) represented a newly-reapportioned US House district centered in Brooklyn.

Elected in 1968, with deep roots in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, Chisholm was "catapulted into the national limelight by virtue of her race, gender



Late Caribbean American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

and outspoken personality", according to her biography.

In 1972, in a largely symbolic undertaking, it says Chisholm campaigned for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Shirley Anita St. Hill was born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn. She was the oldest of four daughters of Charles St. Hill, a factory laborer from Guyana, and Ruby Seale St. Hill, a seamstress from Barbados.

"For part of her childhood, Shirley St. Hill lived in Barbados on her maternal

grandparents' farm, receiving a British education while her parents worked during the Great Depression to settle the family in Bedford-Stuyvesant", her biography says.

Accepted to Vassar and Oberlin colleges, Shirley St. Hill attended Brooklyn College on scholarship and graduated cum laude with a BA in sociology in 1946.

From 1946 to 1953, the biography says Chisholm worked as a nursery school teacher and then as the director of two daycare centers.

In 1949, she married Conrad Q. Chisholm, a private investigator, and, three years later, she earned a Master of Arts in early childhood education from Columbia University in New York, according to the biography.

It says she served as an educational consultant for New York City's Division of Day Care from 1959 to 1964.

In 1964, Chisholm was elected to the New York State Legislature, becoming the second African-American woman to serve in Albany, the state's capital, the biography says.

It says she was "the only

new woman" to enter the US Congress in 1969, and served as secretary of the Democratic Caucus from 1977 to 1981.

In addition, Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in 1971 and the Congressional Women's Caucus in 1977, the biography says.

After leaving the US Congress in January 1983, it says Chisholm co-founded the National Political Congress of Black Women and campaigned for Jesse Jackson's presidential bids in 1984 and 1988.

She also taught at Mt. Holyoke College, a private liberal arts women's college in South Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1983.

Though nominated as US Ambassador to Jamaica by former US President William J. (Bill) Clinton, the biography says Chisholm declined "due to ill health."

It says she settled in Palm Coast, Florida, where she wrote and lectured, and died on January 1, 2005, in Ormond Beach, Florida.

~ *Rewritten from CMC*



Pregnant Haitian Immigrant Forced To Search For Husband After Separation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

she had to leave the border. She had barely eaten for days. Her pregnancy had made her prone to vomiting, and she could not keep the respite center's sandwiches down. She planned to fly the next morning to Josue's older brother in Florida who had bought her an airline ticket.

Marjorie Macon, Josue's sister-in-law, had some news for her when she landed: Josue had called from an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility.

It wasn't clear whether he was being held there prior to being deported.

ICE confirmed that Josue was in their custody in Mississippi but did not respond to questions about the case.

(Reporting by Mimi Dwyer; Editing by Ross Colvin and Aurora Ellis)
~ *Thompson Reuters News Foundation*



The Spanish Main

Caribbean History Month

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: MAY 21, 2021

Boston's First Woman And First Black Mayor Is Also First With Caribbean Roots

A lot has been reported already on Kim Michelle Janey, the new acting mayor of Boston who has made history by being the first Black and first woman in the position. But also missing from the double firsts is the fact that her roots also extend to the Caribbean, as News Americas has found.

Janey, a fourth-generation Roxbury resident, mother and grandmother, has heritage that stretches all the way to the South American CARICOM nation of Guyana. The parents of her paternal grandmother were born in Georgetown, Guyana.

Her father, Cliff Janey, grew up in the Orchard Park projects and was one of only eight Black students to graduate from prestigious Boston Latin School in 1964. She says on her website that her earliest memories are in her parent's small apartment on Codman Park in Academy Homes, and she would later call Highland Park home. Her parents, however, divorced, and she revealed she spent much of her youth at her great grandmother's house in the

South End, which had a deep and lasting impact on her. She first attended New School for Children, a community school in Roxbury founded by Black parents who wanted a better education for their children. After attending the Ellis, Garrison, and Higginson Schools in Boston Public Schools, in the 6th grade, Janey went to the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown during the second phase of desegregation busing. As an 11-year-old girl, she said she had rocks and racial slurs thrown at her as she'd ride the bus to Charlestown each day. Later, Janey attended Reading Public Schools through the METCO program, where she was one of two Black students in her graduating class.

Janey was only 16 years old and a junior in high school when she became a mother to daughter Kimesha. From their first Section 8 apartment to working multiple jobs, Janey says she always did what it took to take care of her daughter.

It was as a young mom, That Janey began her advocacy



Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey is first black, first woman and first with Caribbean roots. (Photo by John Tlumacki/The Boston Globe via Getty Images)

on behalf of children when she recognized that her own daughter's experiences were interconnected with the experiences of other children. Her experience of being a teen mom having to fight for her daughter, paired with her family's history of activism, made her a passionate advocate for equity in education for all families.

Janey built her career as a

longtime education advocate and non-profit leader. In 2017 she was elected to the Boston City Council in what was another history maker – out of a field of 13 she won and became the first woman to represent District 7.

Last year she became President of the most diverse City Council in Boston's history. With Boston mayor Marty Walsh confirmed as United States Secretary of Labor, Janey took

the post.

Janey has promised to “invest” in a “summer of opportunities” — adding that she would partner with the school superintendent and business community “to help our children recover academically and emotionally.”

She only has about five months to make a strong impression before the September preliminary election, and actually has yet to declare her intentions to run for mayor.

Since the position was created in 1822, Boston has counted 54 mayoral administrations between 46 White men, according to Vitabrevis. There have been seven acting mayors prior, two of whom were subsequently elected mayor, making for a total of 52 people before Janey, who have served as mayor officially or in an acting capacity over a 199-year period.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



US Insists Its Committed To Haiti



Haitian protesters have continued to march through the streets to denounce the upsurge in kidnappings committed by gangs and the inclinations for a new dictatorship that the government wants to set up according to them. (Photo by REGINALD LOUSSAINT JR/AFP via Getty Images)

Facing mounting criticism of its response to the crisis in Haiti, the US recently reiterated it is “committed” to helping the Caribbean country.

The comment at a State Department Press conference came after a reporter asked a question about the US' position in light of the fact that Russia has expressed its intent to help Haiti restore political stability amid the ongoing violence there.

Jalina Porter, Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S. State Department stated: “Well, again, what I'll – I'll just say – I'll just stress our commitment to the people of Haiti. The United States is committed to helping the Haitian people to build a better future.”

She also noted that in January, the US announced an additional \$75.5 million for Haiti, to help in a wide range of issues, which includes democratic governance, health,

education, and agricultural development.

Her comments came as #FreeHaiti continues to make waves on social media and as the country's President, Jovenel Moïse, who many say is clinging to power beyond the legal end of his term last month, has asked the Organization of American States (OAS) for assistance to deal with the security crisis in the French-speaking Caribbean nation, days after the death of four police officers in a botched raid.

Moïse asked for help when he met with OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro to discuss security.

Their discussion came on the same day that an extraordinary Council of Ministers met at the National Palace and adopted a decree to revise State of Emergency legislation to give the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN) the means to combat banditry and

crime, and to empower the PNH and the Armed Forces of Haiti (FADH) to work in synergy to combat insecurity.

Four police officers were killed and eight injured in an attempted raid on the gang stronghold in the Village de Dieu slum, in the capital of Oort-au-Prince, where kidnapping victims are often kept. Their armored vehicles and high-calibre automatic weapons were also seized. President Moïse denounced the acts as “a declaration of war against society.”

The US Embassy in Haiti recently said a group known as Fantom 509 is active throughout Port-au-Prince and is known for its violent actions.

Maria Vladimirovna Zakharova, the spokesman and director of the information and press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, said last week that Russia can help Haiti restore political stability, secure the country and train its law enforcement.

“As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, we're closely following the events in Haiti, it raises our concern,” Zakharova said. “Currently, this Caribbean country is going through a new cycle of political instability that has lasted for more than a quarter of a century.”

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



Clarks Is Latest Company To Tap Into Brand Jamaica

Jamaica may be around 14.14 billion U.S. dollars in debt, but its brand is so renown that major companies continue to jump on to its bandwagon in order to increase their bottom line. Counts Clarks footwear among the companies now appropriating the country's national colors to increase its profits.

Clarks, however, says its simply its pay of “paying homage” to the Jamaican culture and its long-standing affiliation with the island. Its new “Jamaica Pack” collection has just been released for spring '21. It features three of the brand's most iconic silhouettes – the Desert Boot, Wallabee, and Desert Trek, each style comes in shades of yellow, green and black, representing Jamaica's national flag. It also features the flag's gold saltire emblem throughout.

Jamaicans and many Caribbean nationals have a long-standing history of loving Clarks. LionRock Capital now owns Clarks, acquiring a majority stake in the 196-year-old English business for an investment of £100 million this month. Victor Herrero is now the executive



One of the new Jamaican-inspired Clarks coming out next month. (Clarks image)

chairman and CEO, replacing Giorgio Presca. Gary Champion remains as president of Clarks Americas.

The entire pack will drop on Clarksusa.com and Clarks.eu over the course of April.

Clarks is the latest brand to tap into Brand Jamaica. Recently, top fashion designer Louis Vuitton released a ‘Jamaica-inspired’ line of clothing, but they mixed up the colors of the country's national flag in a pricey high-end fashion line, which included a \$US1,366 sweater and jumper, initially described one item as a ‘Jamaican striped sweatshirt.’ Additionally, the other description read ‘Jumper with a striped design inspired by the national flag of the Caribbean island.’

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



From Reggae Singers To COVID-19 Conspiracy Theorists?

Jamaica's COVID-19 infection rate is approaching 37,000 and the death toll is approaching 600 as the country rolled out a vaccination campaign, but many top reggae singer and influencers have seemingly crossed over to conspiracy theorists, sharing unfounded claims against taking the jab.

Among them are top reggae artists such as Buju Banton, Sizzla, Spragga Benz, Tony Rebel, Mr. Lexx, Queen Ifrica, Chronixx, Lee 'Scratch' Perry and Kabaka Pyramid, according to Dancehall Mag.

Sizzla has labeled the vaccine "The Babylon Curse," and has been demanding that all Jamaicans, including the Governor-General, Prime Minister Andrew Holness, and all other politicians, refuse to take the vaccine as it was designed with bad intentions.

"Stop scare us with this coronavirus and dis vaccine ting; it ain't go work," he was quoted as saying. "And mi a meck sure mi a warn yuh, mi nuh wan si nobaddy in di Jamaica Parliament taking no coronavirus vaccine, no one in di military nor di constabulary force; no doctor, no nurse..." Sizzla had said.

"So the love for this nation and its people soooo great. They will allow there friends to kill

you and it's perfectly ok#honest #Jamaica land they love #not the people," Buju wrote on his Instagram page.

"Unoo agoh bawl fi Jah... MEMBA ME SPRAGGA BENZ SAY DAT... COVID vaccine manufacturers to get protection from lawsuits!" he chanted on social media.

Lee 'Scratch' Perry, 85, has also questioned the integrity of people purporting to be Rastafarians who have been encouraging others to get vaccinated and wear masks, which he claims is part of the "Babylonian system."

Perry, according to Dancehall Mag, said while he is looking forward to performing and seeing his fans once again, he is hoping that he would be able to travel at least for this year without the "shot passport," as "once that gets required for traveling, I will sadly have to say goodbye to live-shows."

Chronixx, in a now-deleted post, had stated that "tech heads and war heads can't talk to Rastaman about human health" and that he would only be "going online for a concert if it's an action against global vaccination."

This as Kabaka Pyramid has said the COVID-19 numbers were being ramped with "false numbers fi mek sure seh di false vaccine



Reggae Great Burning Spears gets the COVID-19 vaccine in NYC. (Amy Wachtel, also known as the Night Nurse image/Twitter)

'necessary'."

OTHER ARTISTS

But other reggae artists are taking a different stance. Reggae Legend Burning Spear has reportedly taken his two shots in New York.

A captioned photo of the 'Slavery Days' artist being injected with his second dose by a military medic, wearing a mask bearing the Jamaican national colors, was posted by New York City-based radio disc jockey and

independent Reggae promoter Amy Wachtel, also known as the Night Nurse, on her Twitter page this week.

"Mr. Winston Rodney, aka Burning Spear, receives his second dose of the #CovidVaccine today. People, are you ready? @burningmusic #vaccinated #VaccinteNY \$BurningSpear #ChantDownBabylon," the publicist, who has been promoting and writing about Reggae music since the early 1980s wrote.

Burning Spear, who is a

six-time Grammy nominee, has released more than twenty albums throughout his music career, copping the Grammy Award twice for Best Reggae Album for his 2000 release Calling Rastafari and again in 2009 for Jah Is Real. He was also bestowed with the Order of Distinction by the Jamaican Government in 2007 for his contribution to the music industry and retired from touring in June 2016.

And Gaps 7G, a dancehall star, also got his jab at York College in Queens, NY.

"I made up my mind to be one of the first people to get my vaccine shot, mi have the second one fi get in a month time, and mi just a gwaan mask up and do the right ting till then," he said.

Other reggae entertainers who have voiced their willingness to take the jab include Shaggy, Ce'cile, Macka Diamond, and Bounty Killer. Killer has categorically told his fans to get inoculated on a post he made of a flyer of the Sunclash meets Shutdown show scheduled for Ibiza, Spain from October 1 to 4 2021, which will feature himself and Beenie Man in performance.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



150 Million Lawsuit Filed Against Man Who Mowed Down Nicki Minaj's Father

A \$150 million lawsuit has been filed against Charles Polevich, the man charged in the fatal hit-and-run of Robert Maraj, the father of Trinidad & Tobago-born rapper, Nicki Minaj.

Carol Maraj, Robert's wife and Minaj's mother, has filed the multi-million dollar lawsuit using civil rights attorney Ben Crump.

Crump has argued that Polevich's inattentiveness and reckless driving were the cause of the fatal crash that killed Robert Maraj on a street in Long Island on February 12th, according to TMZ.

After filing the lawsuit on behalf of Carol Maraj, Crump tweeted "Charles Polevich was not only irresponsible & negligent in hitting Maraj, but was more concerned about running away and hiding than seeking help." He continued, "Polevich's behavior was criminal, cowardly, and immoral. We will hold him responsible for his reckless actions that led to Robert Maraj's death!"

According to a police report, Polevich struck 64-year-old Maraj with his Volvo and fled the



Nicki Minaj and her late dad Robert Maraj in an undated image. (Instagram: Nicki Minaj)

scene to hide the car in his home garage after asking the victim if he was OK.

Marc Craig Gann, Polevich's attorney, told TMZ: "My client empathizes with the family. The question of whether there was negligence and degrees of negligence will be determined by the court. The \$150 million amount seems to be over the top."

Polevich has pled not guilty and was released on a \$250,000 bond.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



Salute to
THE BAHAMAS!

In June, Caribbean Today will spotlight the Bahamas-3000 islands, cays and inlets located in the Atlantic Ocean. With a population of over 385,000 people, this nation continues to influence its Caribbean cousins and The United States mainland, Florida in particular. The Bahamas is located in the same island chain as Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) and is one of the richest countries in the Americas per capita. Come with Caribbean Today as we focus on the great people of The Bahamas and learn of their contributions to the Caribbean region and the U.S.
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Caribbean Roots TV Presenter Makes History In The UK

A Caribbean roots BBC News presenter has made history in the UK by becoming the first black host of a the long-running BBC quiz show.

Clive Myrie, who was born to Jamaican immigrant parents in Bolton, Lancashire, will replace John Humphrys as the host of Mastermind. Myrie, 56, will be 5th host of BBC show, which marks 50th anniversary next year. He is the first black Mastermind host in the show's 49-year history.

Myrie's mother was a seamstress, and his father was a factory worker making car batteries. He joined the BBC



Clive Myrie, who was born to Jamaican immigrant parents in Bolton, Lancashire, will replace John Humphrys as the host of the BBC's Mastermind.

on the corporation's graduate journalism program and his first

assignment was as a reporter for Radio Bristol in 1988.

Myrie went on to work as a reporter for Points West, BBC Television and Radio News. He became a foreign correspondent for the BBC in 1996 and went on to work as a correspondent in Asia, Africa, Washington, Paris and Brussels.

Myrie has been a regular presenter of BBC News At Six and Ten since 2010.

He has also appeared as a guest on hit BBC shows including Have I Got News For You and Would I Lie To You? and earlier this year won the RTS Award for TV journalist of the year.

A regular presenter of BBC News At Six and Ten since 2010, Myrie has previously worked as the broadcaster's correspondent in Asia, Africa, Washington, Paris and Brussels.

He has also appeared as a guest on hit BBC shows including Have I Got News For You and Would I Lie To You? and earlier this year won the RTS Award for TV journalist of the year.

"What a privilege it is to take on this new role," he commented. "Mastermind with Magnus Magnusson formed the backdrop to my youth, and now to be at the helm is a dream come true. I'm excited and can't wait to get stuck in."

He also tweeted his thanks for "all for your messages of good will for #Mastermind." "It is much appreciated," he added.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean Born Writers Win Top Literary Prize

Two Caribbean-born immigrant writers in Canada are among the winners of this year's Windham-Campbell Prize, an anonymously judged literary award worth US \$165,000.

Trinidad-born Canadian Dionne Brand and St. Lucia-born Canadian Canisia Lubrin are among the eight writers from around the world to win the honor.

Brand, The Toronto poet laureate, won for her work in fiction. "With genre-bending explorations of narrative form, Dionne Brand honors the complexities of diasporic experience, gracefully bringing to life the fundamental relationship between politics, aesthetics, and love," the Windham-Campbell Prize statement reads.

She has in the past won the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry and the Trillium Book Award for her 1997 collection Land to Light On. Brand was also the 2011 Griffin Poetry Prize for Ossuaries and



Trinidad-born Canadian Dionne Brand, (l.) and St. Lucia-born Canadian Canisia Lubrin are among the eight writers from around the world to win the 2021 Windham-Campbell Prize.

in 2017 and was named to the Order of Canada. She was also the recipient of the 2019 Blue Metropolis Violet Literary Prize. Brand was born in Guayaguayare, Trinidad and moved to Toronto in 1970.

"This is an astonishing surprise. It will take me weeks, maybe months to find the best words to describe my amazement," she commented on the win. "For now, let me say, wondrous."

Lubrin was recognized in the poetry category. "Bursting beyond the confines of legibility and the individual, Canisia Lubrin summons up oceans, languages, and the self, the other, and the first-person plural, into a generous baroque project of anti-colonial plenitude," the Windham-Campbell Prize statement noted.

Lubrin is the author of two critically acclaimed collections of poetry: Voodoo Hypothesis (2017) and The Dyzgraphxst (2020).

Voodoo Hypothesis, a finalist for the Raymond Souster Award (2018), is a wildly ambitious work of speculative poetics, brilliantly combining physics, philosophy, and pop culture. The book investigates, with a steady eye and deep moral seriousness, state-sanctioned violence against Black individuals and cultures – all while remaining rooted in a vision of Black diasporic aesthetics and imagination. The Dyzgraphxst continues Lubrin's exploration of Black history and Black futurities.

"It is impossible to express what this extraordinary encouragement means, what being in such company during such a catastrophic time, will make possible," she commented on the award. "This invitation to trust even more deeply, the potential of the not-yet-written is transformative; and thanks to the Windham-Campbell Prize, I will face the world and these alphabets tomorrow and the day after with renewed vigor."

Established in 2013 and administered by Yale University, the prize annually honors a selection of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry writers who have been nominated in secret. The prize is given to support their writing.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



Co-Founder Of VP Records Hailed As An Immigrant Success Story

BY DERRICK SCOTT

Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, has lauded the contribution of Mrs. Patricia Chin, aka "Ms. Pat," and her husband "Randy," in both the development of Jamaica's reggae music genre and its promotion through their business, Randy's Record Mart and VP Records.

"Since its emergence, reggae music has come to be known as the "heartbeat of the world. However, any credible study of this important genre which has remained a significant feature of Jamaica's cultural heritage, will reveal Mrs. Chin's remarkable contribution to its growth in Jamaica and across the globe," Ambassador Marks commented.

"From their humble beginnings as Randy's Record Mart in 1958 — founded by Pat Chin and her late husband, Vincent "Randy" Chin — the Chins were instrumental in introducing and giving prominence to many new reggae stars," she added. "Their relocation to the United States in the 1970s where they



Co-Founder of VP Records Mrs Patricia Chin (Photo Credit Derrick Scott)

established a reggae empire known as VP Records, constituted a groundbreaking move, given their singular role in introducing several artistes to the international scene and building a new wave of reggae legends, including Beenie Man, Bounty Killer, Lady Saw and Sean Paul."

Ambassador Marks was speaking at a reception to celebrate the launch of the recently released book, "Miss Pat – My Musical Journey," hosted by Carib News publishers out of New York.

The proceeds from the book will go towards supporting music education as well as the Alpha Institute in Jamaica to enhance the facilities and upgrading the school's musical technology equipment.

This is expected to benefit this important institution where thousands of boys have walked the corridors over the years and where she is leaving a legacy which will outlive her for generations to come, the ambassador declared. "I am always inspired by the

remarkable contribution of members of the Jamaican Diaspora to the economic, social, cultural and political landscape of the United States," Ambassador Marks said. "Ms. Pat's life stands out as an immigrant success story, blazing a trail of excellence in entrepreneurship which has inspired many other Jamaicans to pursue similar dreams in their adopted homeland."

The Jamaican envoy pointed out that Ms Pat's journey served as an inspiration to women, not just in Jamaica and the USA, but also across the globe.

"Ms. Pat is, without doubt, a cultural icon, whose life is one of fusion with reggae music for more than six (6) decades. Whether Ms. Pat chose music or music chose her, Jamaica and indeed the world is a better place as a result of her courage and fortitude in overcoming the odds and making her mark in the music industry. I therefore join Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora in celebrating the life of a legend," Ambassador Marks added.



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Joe Biden's Big Immigration Mistake

Democratic lawmakers, unlike Republicans, don't have loyalty to Party line. They clearly do not follow the 'Birds Of A Feather Stick Together,' mantra, unlike the GOPers. Most often do what they feel is best for them politically - like Joe Manchin.

Now as the focus turns to the next agenda item for President Joe Biden - now that the 1.9 trillion stimulus

is out of the way - some Democrats are suddenly unsure if the President's bold immigration reform plan, as introduced in February, can be taken up right now.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Why? Blame Joe Biden himself and this disaster at the US' southern border - again!

Despite the pandemic, the Biden administration, without waiting for Congress to move on any immigration reform, ordered the Department of Homeland Security to suspend the Migrant Protection Protocols regarding the application of asylum.

This led to news spreading like wildfire into Central America that the US' border is open again. With many Central and Latin American migrants believing they have a better chance now to get into the U.S., many parents are now sending their children across the border alone, while they remain in Mexico or Central America.

There are now more than 15,000 unaccompanied immigrant children in US immigration detention according to Associated Press reports, and the figure is rising almost daily.

The new surge has now created fear in the hearts of many

'Blue Dog' Democrats, whose districts are purple and who cannot be seen as supporters of an open border policy.

Even moderate Republicans are not going to support immigration reform with this new surge. This now has the Democratic leaders in both the House and the Senate in dread over what the next steps forward should be for The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 as the Biden administration looks like its scratching its head.

Democratic leaders in Congress know they don't have the support as yet for the measure, neither in the House or the Senate, so many are now trying for smaller bites of the apple by pushing smaller measures instead, like the Dream and Promise Act and The Farm Workforce Modernization Act passed by the House.

Those bills, much like The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, now appear dead in the water as the administration scrambles over the border brouhaha and the crisis it manufactured with silly warnings like: "Don't Come Now" to "The border is closed."

Immigration reform to me is about immigrants within the country. This includes stopping the endless deportations of mostly Haitian immigrants and putting undocumented immigrants, DREAMERS and those with TPS status on the path to legalization. It does not mean letting more people in, especially in this pandemic and it certainly does not mean open season at the Southern Border.

What a difference a few weeks make. Immigrants have gone from excitement to now concern and disillusionment, all because of Joe Biden's haste.

~ The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow



Adultery Drivers

Adultery can destroy people's lives, both in a physical and emotional way. Throw in the spiritual aspect and you can see how destructive adultery can be. One guy defined adultery as such: "A man commits adultery by taking from the married woman what her husband has claimed as his sole privilege."

So, based on that definition, adultery is more about the infringement on another man's property. I guess it's about the same as driving a man's car without his permission or wearing his shoes without asking him first.

Does a man just get up one morning and declare: "I am going to commit adultery today!" Or does a wife, married for years, simply wake up one day and say: "Ah, I'm ready for adultery, bring it on."

Are people born to commit adultery, was adultery thrust upon them, or were they driven to commit adultery? "I can't help it, it's in my genetic makeup. My father committed adultery, as did his father before him," are some excuses. Or: "I didn't plan to, but the opportunity presented itself, so I took it." and this one: "I didn't want to, but you drove me to it."

I knew this guy who was a man driven to committing adultery. He was married for years to a woman he didn't really love, and from I knew him, he always had a mistress or another woman. As he broke off with one, he took up with another.

I had to ask him: "Why this adulterous lifestyle brother?" I needed to satisfy my curiosity. He told me that he got married because his wife got pregnant so 'it was the honorable thing to do.' Despite that, his wife turned out to be a witch out of hell and he literally dreaded going home to her in the evenings.

"That's why I'm always on the road doing sales, working late,



TONY ROBINSON

meeting clients, hanging out in the country for weekends. Anything but face her," he confessed.

Basically, he was driven away from his home by a harridan wife and sought solace anywhere else. So, he was driven to commit adultery by a loveless marriage and a shrewish wife.

He is not alone. Many men would rather spend their hours on the road, hanging out in bars, even sleeping in cars, rather than go home to their wives. They are literally driven into the arms of other women.

Now I'm not justifying adultery or making excuses for these men, but some women really drive men to seek solace elsewhere. When a wife deprives a man and even tells him: "Sex is only for procreation, not pleasure," what is he supposed to do?

And what about the women, what drives them to adultery? In many instances, it's as a result of abuse. Many wives I spoke to didn't really set out to commit adultery and were not driven by the lure of physicality or other trappings.

In the cases of many, it was as a result of abuse. Some husbands abused them physically or emotionally, and they then sought



solace and comfort in the arms of another man. They simply needed to escape from the abuse and find comfort outside. "I just felt at peace with that other man, and naturally one thing led to another," one told me.

Given a choice, many women wouldn't go that route, but they were literally driven. Now you may say that people should exercise more self control, that they're seeking an excuse for their infidelity, but they really are driven.

People don't usually leave good for bad. Okay, some people will stray no matter what, curiosity, revenge. Yes, revenge. "I gave him a taste of his own medicine and slept with his friend"

But usually a man or woman won't be driven to adultery if things are fine at home. Still, some people will step out no matter what.

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



From Dante To Daddy Yankee

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Who would have thought that 14th century Italian poet and philosopher, Dante, could have had an impact on Caribbean music, language, and culture?

Known as the 'Father of the Italian Language,' Dante Alighieri, wrote some of the most impactful poetry of the middle ages, in a vernacular designed to reach all people, not just the learned. This is the legacy that he left on the language, one that has influenced other creatives, including Puerto Rican-born singer, songwriter and rapper, Daddy Yankee.

Claudio Pastor, Director of the Societa Dante Alighieri Miami (Dante Alighieri Society), explored the connection in a recent seminar sponsored by the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

For a society that promotes Italian culture and language, taking the bold step to compare

the language of reggaeton, dancehall, and rap to Dante's literary devices illuminates the power of communication in creating culture.

"This is about two characters that is separated by 700 years of history," Pastor remarked to his online audience. "Indeed, the Societa Dante Alighieri Miami is commemorating 700 years since Dante's death this year by reading and analysing his works and how they impacted the world. But, what is his connection to the Caribbean?"

COMBINED HISTORY

Pastor explained that starting with the better known of all persons in history that are connected to the new world, Christopher Columbus was Italian, born in the city of Genoa. So, the combined history starts from day one in the new world; and



it can be argued that Columbus' voyages and so-called contribution to the European presence in the new world changed the history of mankind forever.

"From 1492 when he arrived in the new world, the presence of Italy and Italian has been present in the Caribbean," said Pastor. "The island of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, that

presence continued in one way or another through art and architecture in the Americas, and specifically in the Caribbean, for the next 500 years."

In fact, the Italian connection to Caribbean history is celebrated in early Dominican Republic

history where Italian Cleric, Alessandro Geraldini, contributed greatly to establishing the city of Santo Domingo. In Havana, there are many examples of Italian architects designing important buildings, including The Castle of (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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The Post Pandemic Crisis Facing Education In Jamaica

BY DR. WINSTON WHYTE

The digital divide in Jamaica widened when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and confined students to virtual learning. The transition was smooth for those with access to technology and Wi-Fi service.

Those on the other side of the digital divide faced a lifetime of under-achievement and the transfer of poverty from one generation to another. All the stakeholders in the educational system – students, parents, teachers, government, and alumni associations – therefore have challenges requiring urgent resolution.

An estimated 400,000 Jamaican students may have not been able to take part in online learning because of lack of technology or Wi-Fi at home. Children attending schools in rural areas have special challenges with on-line schooling.

Reports suggests that as many as 50 percent of the students in Hanover were not able to access online schooling between March and December last year. The COVID-19 ripple effect will be devastating if not planned for and addressed immediately.

Providing equity for the disadvantaged has been central

to my work as a teacher and educational administrator in the United States school system for 41 years. A 2021 publication by educator and human rights activist Yvonne McCalla Sobers and titled: “Turn On The Lights: Ending Educational Inequality/ Inequity,” has helped to brief me on the current situation in the Jamaican school system.

The need for a radical change in the Jamaican educational system is illustrated by gaps in the 2021-2022 budget estimates of the Ministry of Education (MOE) where, for example:

1) The MOE estimates do not mention the Covid-19 Pandemic, let alone address its impact on budget allocation to education for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

2) There is no provision for students already behind by at least a grade or two, who will have missed 18 months of schooling by the time the school year begins in September 2021.

3) The MOE’s mission, vision, and objectives are vague, abstract, generalized and seem unrelated to the problems that learners, teachers, and administrators face in education.

In its 2018 Handbook on ‘Measuring Equity in Education,’ UNESCO defined equitable funding as providing



Jamaican high schooler at Calabar HS.

additional resources for the most disadvantaged children so that every child can receive the same educational opportunities.

However, the Jamaican government’s gross underfunding of early childhood education limits children’s readiness for primary education – a major indicator of academic success. For example, the 2019 – 2020 budget allocated only \$3.38 billion for early- childhood education, as compared with \$38 billion for secondary education.

Further, out of a total of 2,700 early childhood institutions, only 122 have been certified by

the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) and only about 3,500 out of 10,000 early childhood teachers have the minimum teacher training certification.

Stop gap programmes such as the Alternative Secondary Transition Education Program (ASTEP) have not been able to improve student performance affected by wealth disparities, low wages, high unemployment and poverty. MOE data shows that almost 2160 students between grades 8 and 10 drop out of secondary schools each year. Those who leave school without academic qualifications are likely to be unemployable as at risk for teen pregnancy and early involvement in crime.

The pandemic will negatively impact the already poor performance at the secondary levels where the MOE indicates that:

- Only 38.6 per cent of the grade 11 cohort who sat the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) in 2014 attained five (5) subjects, including mathematics and English.

From Dante To Daddy Yankee

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

El Morro.

The link between Dante and Daddy Yankee is similar in that their use of language, lyrics, poetry reached the populous.

“Dante was revolutionary. He decided to write Italy’s pinnacle book in literature (Divine Comedy) in what was the language of the streets so that it could be more accessible, not in the Latin that was used in monasteries and amongst the elite. The language spoken in the streets of Florence at the time was called vulgar because it was the language of the people. But because of Dante, it becomes the Italian we know today.”

Pastor continued: “Daddy Yankee’s (often cited as the King of reggaeton) music, if you look at the lyrics, although very different from the poetry and words in Divine Comedy, is also revolutionary. Why? Because he is using a new language in music, a language of the people of the Caribbean. And this, of course, opened a line of communication with a young,

- Some 34 per cent of age-level high school students were not recommended to do the SCEC examinations in 2014.
- About 75 per cent of the students attending traditional secondary schools pass five (5) subjects including Mathematics and English at one sitting while only 20 per cent of students attending non-traditional secondary schools pass five CSEC subjects at one sitting.

The pandemic compounds the existing inequality brought about by inadequate and ineffective distribution of resources, parenting, teaching techniques, school leadership, community amenities, and mental/ psychological diagnoses for students

A cookie cutter approach will not address the myriad of issues affecting education in Jamaica. Each school needs to develop an action plan that is unique to its demographics and tailored to its stakeholders. Schools have the dilemma of finding the resources to address inequities faced by the children of the poor who are afflicted by the cycles of poverty and unequal opportunity, that 80 per cent of the students who continue to be left behind.

As a Jamaican who lives abroad, I am very concerned about the pending set back that Jamaica faces from the impact of the pandemic. There is an urgency to address the multitude of issues impacting education, creating solutions that will be beneficial to ALL students.

No Child Must Be Left Behind!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Winston Whyte is a Jamaican-born, US educator.



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How Technology Is Changing Education Around The Globe

Technology is constantly changing so many different aspects of our lives, including in the Caribbean.

For example, if 10 years ago you wanted to watch a film, you would have probably gone out and rented or bought a DVD instead of streaming it on the internet. If you needed some groceries, you would have also had to go to the store, whereas these days you can choose to order food and drink online and get them delivered straight to your home.

Even some of the most mundane tasks like organising your banking, changing your energy provider and even booking a taxi have all now been made so much simpler and quicker thanks to apps on smartphones and tablets.

While you may have not noticed all of these changes because they seem to sneak into and adapt our lives with very little fanfare, all of these small advancements have made a big difference to our lives.

One place where you definitely might not have noticed a difference is somewhere where you spent years when you were younger, but probably have not stepped into for a very long time. That is of course, unless you have children yourself or work in the profession. When it comes to schools, all of us have different memories of the level of technology on offer depending on what era you went to school. For example, some will remember the first typewriter, or the first television set being bought by their school, younger people may remember when their school bought their first computers that pupils were forced to take turns using. Even younger pupils may remember when blackboards were replaced by



whiteboard, or even when whiteboards were replaced with smart whiteboards.

Even if you only recently graduated from school, college or university, it is highly likely that the technology has changed a lot the last few years since you stepped foot on campus. Here is a look at some of the ways technology is constantly changing education around America and around the globe.

Moving Whole Degrees Online

Throughout this article, you will hear a lot about the technology that you would find in a classroom that has revolutionised the way students learn. One of the most incredible developments when it comes to technology is the fact that students actually no longer need to travel to a certain building to get an education. A university is no longer a word describing a campus where people travel to study to get a degree. It can now mean any institution which provides training to help people complete their degrees, whether that be in a traditional lecture hall or over the internet to someone sitting at home, at their work or even at their local café.

There are so many different

advantages to studying at an online university. For instance, they can be a lot more affordable than a traditional course. For most students, the most expensive part of being a student is not the tuition. It is paying for the accommodation you need to stay in as the university campus

you are studying at is so far away from your home. It is also the food, utility bills, travel and the other expenses that you need to pay for while you are living away from home. As well as the expense, moving away from home can also have a huge impact on your social life. Traditionally to study the exact course you want a degree in, you would probably have to travel to a different state or even to the other side of the world, leaving your friends and family behind. If you are married, in a serious relationship, or have children, you might even decide not to go to university as you would not either want to force them to move location with you or leave them behind. If you choose to study online, you can choose exactly where you study and avoid some of the emotional and financial stress university has traditionally caused.

You might think by choosing to study at home, you would be restricted by the number of courses you could choose from. You might think that you would be forced to study a less complicated degree in a less complicated field. Luckily, that is not the case. Restricting where

you study should not limit your choice of career or your ambition. No matter what you would like to study, there is probably an online course available in that field. For example, Marymount University offer a number of medical qualifications that you can study for online. They offer everything from an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to a Doctor of Education or even a Master's degree. You might think that studying remotely might put you at a disadvantage compared to other students; in fact, these degrees have extremely high pass rates in comparison to more traditional courses.

Bringing Classrooms Together

When we were children, you may have been asked to write a letter to a pen pal. Often these were children that were picked at random from another school across the country or even the world. Although it is a great exercise in learning how to write letters, it is highly unlikely that the letter writing would develop into a lasting friendship. It is highly likely that you would have never met these people in real life, spoken to them over the phone or even seen a photo of them. In some instances, you might have not even got a letter back if the assignment ended abruptly or even if the letter got lost in the post.

Luckily in 2021, there are much more effective ways to communicate with classrooms around the country or the world. Instead of writing a letter, schools can now speak to other schools around the world in real time thanks to the internet. Many teachers now set up webcams and microphones to speak to other classrooms instead of

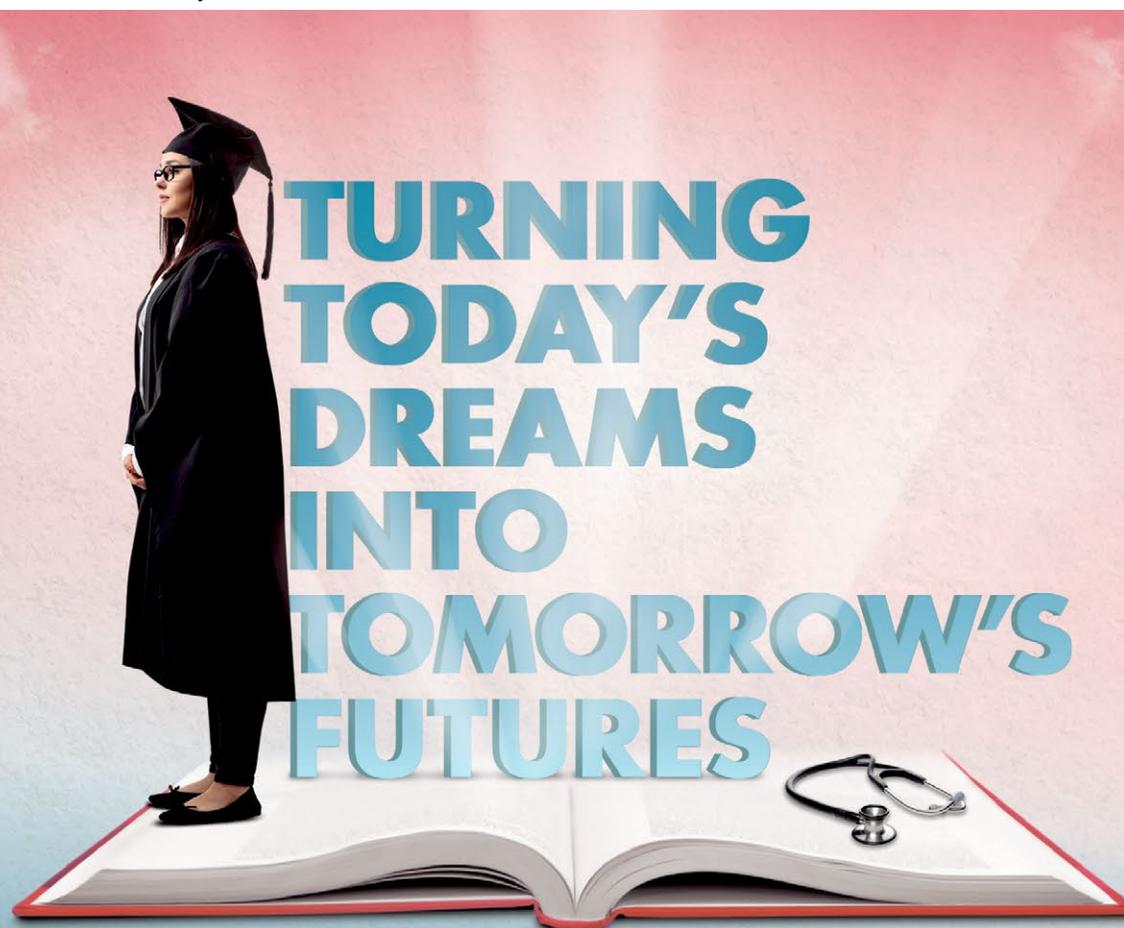
sending letters. If the aim of the topic is to learn about different cultures, then pupils can learn a lot more from these video calls than any letter. They can see the faces, hear the accents and different languages of the pupils, and even ask questions which are answered instantly.

Holding Massive Conferences In Tiny Classrooms

Another one of the big events you might remember from your school or college days are those big inter-school meetings that you went to. These would be large events that would see hundreds if not thousands of pupils from different schools gather. They would normally be held in large buildings, such as theatres or even stadiums. These events are held for many reasons, whether it is to get large groups of children working together or even get lots of people together to hear the same inspirational guest speaker talk.

While there are lots of advantages to these trips, they can also cause a lot of problems. For example, the hire of the venue and even hiring the transport to take so many pupils to the event can cost a lot of money. If you are also required to get permission from the parent of each child to take them on this trip, it can cause a lot of extra admin and paperwork for teachers to complete on top of their very busy schedules. This is before you even consider the health and safety assessments they would be required to complete before taking so many children to an outside venue.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



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EDUCATION



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Looking For an Education Summer Camp? We've Got You Covered

While the pandemic may be on, there are a number of virtual and actual summer camps already being announced in South Florida. Here are some you can tap into for your kids beginning in June:

Broward College - Kids and Teens Summer College
Programs include Robotics, Entrepreneurship, Web Developer etc. See more at broward.edu/youth or call 954-201-7800.

Buildbots Robotics Academy
STEM hands-on education. Log on to buildbots.com or call 888-761-8484.

Camp Inspire - Florida International University
Hands-on STEAM activities and research areas. Built for ages 6-14, each camp session runs for 90 minutes and includes a lab, activity, virtual field trip or "meet the expert" experience. See more at <https://case.fiu.edu/opportunities/education-outreach/camps/camp-inspire/index.html>.

YMCA of South Florida Day Camp
Campers select their daily enrichment from arts and crafts, science, technology and math, indoor/outdoor games, and more. Multiple locations in Broward County. Log on to ymcasouthflorida.org or call 954-334-9622.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Spring break and summer theater camps - acting, singing and dance at 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. See more at browardcenter.org or call 954-462-0222.

The American Heritage Summer Institute
Online courses for lower school,

middle school and high school. Multiple in-person camp options are also available. See more at ahsummerprograms.com or call 888-490-7467.

Florida Superstars
Virtual Summer Dance Jam Camp at floridasuperstars.com or call 954-438-2075.

Frost Science Virtual Summer Camp
Children, ages 4-11, can attend week-long themed camps based on the science featured at the museum, including astronomy, marine biology, engineering and paleontology. Log on to frostsience.org/summer-camp-2021 or call 305-434-9564.

iD Tech
Structured, weeklong sessions in Python, Java, Minecraft, Roblox, Unity, Adobe, 3D modeling, and more at idtech.com/virtual or by calling 888-709-8324.

Institute For Math & Computer Science (IMACS)
Mathematics, enrichment, computer programming and university-level courses at imacs.org or by calling 866-634-6227.

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
Week-long classes with an emphasis on performing arts at kravis.org/artscamp or by calling 561-651-4251.

MOCA Summer Art Camps
Studio Art Camp and Dynamic Design Camp. Camps are divided into five, two-week sessions and include art supplies and Zoom instruction. Log on to mocanomi.org/moca-art-camps or call 305-893-6211.

AEF School And Camp
Camp offers a hybrid of targeted

academics (available virtually or in-person) and camp activities.

Camp Coral Diabetes Camp
Online activities, weekly challenges, arts and crafts, and more. Mixed in with valuable education and tools on how to live with diabetes. See more at browardhealth.org/pages/camp-coral or call 954-344-3344.

CampMagician.com
Camps are designed to engage and entertain children ages 6-12. Log on to campmagician.com or call 855-773-7865.

Moonlighter Makerspace: Virtual Summer STEAM Maker Camp
All tools and materials are delivered to your home. Ideal for children ages 7-12. See more at moonlighterfablab.org or call 305-699-2041.

Play By Play Virtual Camp
Learn what it takes to make it in the sports broadcasting industry at playbyplaycamps.com or call 800-319-0884.

School of Rock
Variety of online camps. Visit the Coral Springs, Davie, Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach location websites locations at schoolofrock.com for schedules or call as follows:
Coral Springs: 954-757-7625;
Davie: 954-252-7625;
Fort Lauderdale: 954-564-7625;
Pompano Beach: 954-941-7625

My Gym
Games, gymnastics, arts and crafts, music and more. Multiple locations in the tri-county area at mygym.com.

Park's Taekwondo Federation
Summer camp with martial arts. Multiple locations in Broward and Palm Beach counties. See more at parksfederation.com

Pine Crest Summer Programs
Program offerings range from arts, sports, STEM and more at 1501 NE 62nd St., Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-492-4100.

Sylvan Learning
Variety of camp options including academic, study skills and college readiness camps. Locations in the tri-county area. Log on to sylvanlearning.com or call 888-338-2283.

Winters End Farm
Program includes riding lessons,

trail rides, arts & crafts, video games and more at 5250 SW 130th Ave., Southwest Ranches. Log on to wintersendfarm.com or call: 954-434-7590 or 954-937-5006.

Acts 2 Acres Equestrian Center
Horse camps - summer, winter and spring break at 4280 NW 71st St., Coconut Creek. Log on to acts2acres.com or call 954-326-2528.

American Twisters Gymnastics
Games, organized activities, fitness, arts and crafts, and supervised play at 6805 Lyons Technology Circle, Coconut Creek. See more at americantwisters.com or call 954-725-9199.

Artistry Dance Academy
Get your kids into dance - jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, acrobatics, and more at 9470 Griffin Road, Cooper City. Log on to artistrydanceacademyfl.com or call 954-434-8401.

Bar-B-Ranch
Year-round riding camp for children ages 7-15. Dedicated solely to all facets of horses and horsemanship at 3500 Peaceful Ridge Road, Davie. Log on to bar-b-ranch.com or call 954-424-1060.

Bill Clark Tennis Academy
Tennis training includes drills, point play and match-specific situations that focus on the development of competitive strategy and mental toughness at 11600 Stonebridge Parkway, Hollywood. Log on to billclarktennis.com or call 954-275-9991.

Broadway Kids Studio
Summer camp sessions are four weeks and focus on the production of a musical at 9042 W. State Road 84, Davie. Log on to broadwaykidsstudio.com or call 954-693-7500.

Camp Embark
Activities include art lab, archery, pottery, team sports, woodworking and more at Miramar County Club Ranches, 4700 Indian Trail, Miramar. Log on to campembark.com or call 954-654-4091.

Camp Explorer
Variety of activities and



The American Heritage Summer Institute is offering in-person camps for kids as well this summer.

in-house field trips at creativechildlearningcenter.com.

Camp Live Oak
Variety of camp options with different programs and activities at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, 3109 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-563-4880 or log on to campliveoakfl.com

Camp Nova - NSU University School
Variety of summer programs for students in preschool through 11th grade at 3375 SW 75th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Log on to uschool.nova.edu or call 954-262-4528.

Camp Paw Hero
Animal fun, education and activities at the Humane Society of Broward County, 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale. Log on to humanebroward.com or call 954 266-6815.

Camp Sagement
Sports and games, field trips, arts and crafts, science, nature and other activities at 1570 Sagement Way, Weston. See more at campsagement.com or call 954-384-5454.

Camp Sinai
Various activities including hands-on activities, dance, fitness, swimming and playtime at 1400 N. 46th Ave., Hollywood. Log on to sinaihollywood.org or call 954-987-0026.

City of Pembroke Pines
General summer camp for kindergarten and first-grade students. See more at ppines.com/centralede or call 954-322-3350.

~Compiled from Sun Sentinel



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Caribbean Recipes

There's nothing like Caribbean cuisine. It's as diverse as the people of the region and their cultures. Here are a few dishes that reflect that diversity. Bon Appetite!

Jamaican Pepper Pot Soup

Jamaica's Pepper Pot dish originates with the Maroons of The Sovereign State of Accompong. Here's how to make it.



Jamaican Pepper Pot Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb Callaloo (approximately 8 stalks) –
- ½ lb. okra
- ½ lb. pig's tail and/or ½ lb. salt beef
- Flour dumplings
- ½ lb yam and dasheen
- 1 Stalk escallion
- 3 Stalks fresh Thyme
- 1 Scotch bonnet pepper
- ½ Cup Coconut Milk
- Black Pepper
- 3 Quarts water

METHOD:

Soak the ½ lb. pig's tail and ½ lb. salt beef overnight

Cook the pig's tail and beef until both are tender

Add the callaloo Boil meat and vegetables.

Puree vegetables and return to the pot adding dumpling.

Then add the diced yam, dasheen, coconut milk, and other seasonings to taste.

Add the whole Scotch bonnet pepper to the pot.

Add the spinner flour dumplings

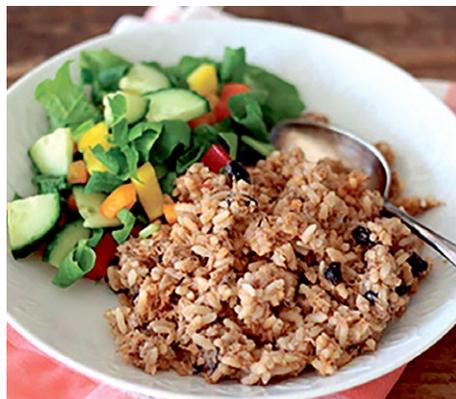
Simmer for approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

Add black pepper and stir

Serve hot.

Moksi-Alesi

In the Dutch Caribbean nation of Suriname, a unique recipe that is popular



Moksi-Alesi

is Moksi-Alesi. Here's how to make it according to Denis Cardenas, owner at El Jalapeno.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- 200 grams of salted meat – beef or pork, and/or chicken breast
- 1 small tomato, chopped
- 1 tbs black pepper
- 1 pinch of nutmeg
- 1 fresh hot pepper
- 1 tbsp. tomato paste or ketchup
- 1/2 to 1 packet of masoesa or passion food powder, which you can buy on Amazon.
- Some sliced pointed cabbage (optional)
- 3-4 Maggi cubes or chicken stock cubes
- A few tablespoons of oil
- 1 tbsps butter
- 1 can of coconut milk (optional)

METHOD

Wash and cut the chicken breast into bite sized pieces.

Wash the rice in a colander and drain.

Boil the salted meat in some water until tender, (approx. half an hour), or pressure in a pressure cooker for about 15 minutes.

Remove the salted meat and cut into bite sized pieces.

Heat a few tablespoons of oil in a large non-stick skillet. Add the onion and garlic and let it cook.

Add the tomatoes, the tomato paste, nutmeg and the black pepper.

Then add the salt meat and the small chicken pieces and fry everything together until brown.

Add some water and the Maggi or chicken stock cubes.

If you use coconut milk, add it now. Let it come to a boil, add the washed rice with the masoesa and stir everything well.

Add enough water to just a little finger joint above the rice.

Taste for salt.

Add some stock powder or chicken stock powder if necessary.

Add the fresh hot pepper and let it steam on top of the dish.

Make sure it doesn't open.

Let it cook with the lid closed on low heat.

Stir occasionally with a fork to prevent it from sticking.

Cut the pointed cabbage into small strips. Fry it very briefly in butter or oil.

When the moksi alesi is cooked, stir in the pointed cabbage, keep it crisp.

Add some extra salt if necessary.

Serve with fried ripe plantains.

Roti

Roti is a favorite cuisine for many Caribbean nationals and was introduced by Indian indentured servants who were brought to the region to replace emancipated slaves and Chinese and Portugues indentured laborers. Here's how you can become a roti pro with this simple recipe.



Roti

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 tbs shortening
- Approx. 2 cups lukewarm water
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil + 1 tbs
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening or ghee

METHOD

Add flour, baking powder, and salt to a

mixing bowl and combine.

Add 2 tbsps shortening. Mix until crumbly.

Add water a little at a time. You may not need all the water. Mix into a soft dough.

Add 1 tbs vegetable oil to the top of the dough and cover with a damp cloth. Let rest for 45 – 60 mins

Flour a clean surface. Add dough. Divide into 6 equal pieces. Form into balls Roll each ball and rub it with oil mixture. You can use shortening and vegetable oil – equal parts or melted ghee. Oil, roll into a cone, cover and let sit for 30 mins

Heat skillet, Tawa or large frying pan med to low heat. Roll out the Roti, add to heated cookware, turn after 15-20 seconds, rub oil mixture, flip, oil the other side. Cook for another 15-20 seconds

Flip again to make sure you have the color that is to your preference Remove roti from heat, add to a hand towel or mug and clap with hand or shake. Remove and wrap into a towel to store to preserve warmth.

Serve with a stew or curry dish.

~ All Recipes From
NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaica at 59

On August 6, 2021, the island of Jamaica marks the 59th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 59* -

to be published in July 2021, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people. Promote your products and services in this 28-page keepsake edition, to be distributed widely throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta, and the Caribbean.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: JUNE 25, 2021

Cruise Industry Looks To Reinvent Cruising



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has blocked cruise ships that carry more than 250 people from sailing in U.S. waters since March of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But two of the world's biggest cruise lines have announced they would resume North America cruises in June despite the pandemic.

Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises have announced sailings out of the Bahamas and St. Martin, respectively. The sailings will not originate in or involve any stops at U.S. ports which means they will not require the approval of the CDC. They only require the approval of officials

in the destinations where the ships will visit, which the lines now have.

Royal Caribbean - the world's largest cruise line - said it would begin seven-night sailings out of Nassau in the Bahamas on June 12th that will feature calls in the Bahamas and Mexico. The trips will take place on the line's 3,807-passenger Adventure of the Seas - a ship that originally was scheduled to spend the summer in Europe.

The new itineraries departing through August, which will sail with vaccinated crew, will be available to adult guests who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and those under the age of 18 with negative test results.

In addition, vacationers must meet the travel requirements of The Bahamas. This may include receiving a negative PCR test result before their arrival, testing upon arrival into the country and filling out appropriate entry forms. The most up-to-date policies can be found at The Bahamas website.

Celebrity, a sister line to Royal Caribbean, said it would begin seven-night sailings out of St. Martin on June 5th, that will feature calls at such destinations as Aruba, Curaçao and Barbados. The trips will take place on the line's 2,218-passenger Celebrity Millennium - a ship that originally was scheduled to spend the summer in Alaska.



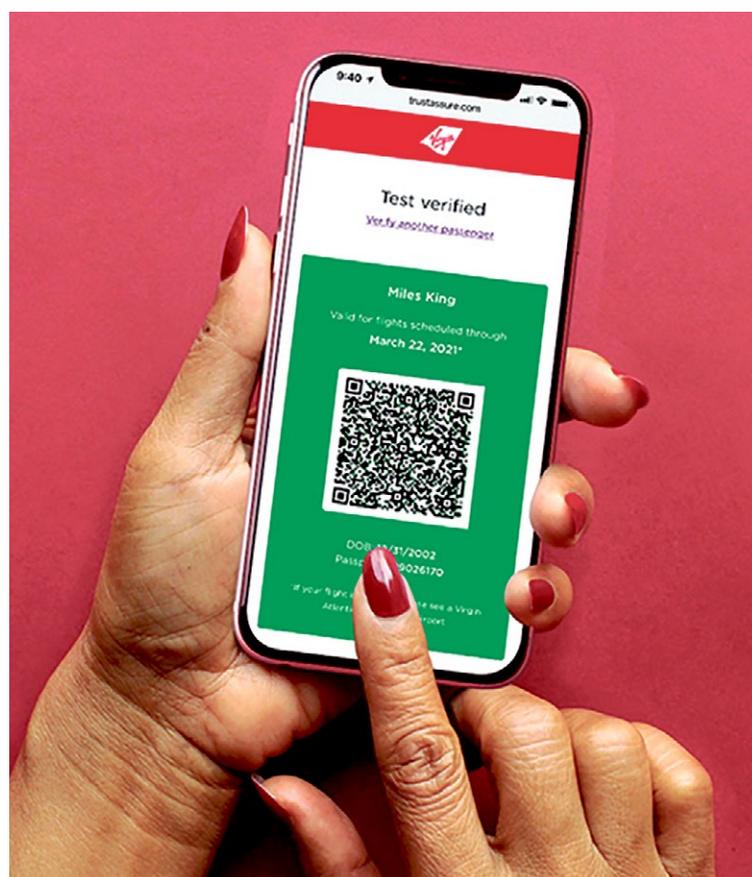
Virgin Atlantic To Launch IATA Travel Pass

Virgin Atlantic has taken a major step forward towards the introduction of digital health passes by partnering with IATA Travel Pass and TrustAssure™ to launch two separate, complementary trials to streamline customer journeys.

From April 16th, the airline will commence a one-month trial of the IATA Travel Pass on its popular London Heathrow-Barbados services, in close collaboration with the Government of Barbados, which will accept the Pass at its border.

Customers travelling for permitted reasons on flights VS131 from London Heathrow to Barbados will be invited to participate in the trial by downloading the IATA Travel Pass on their smartphone. Using the app they can create a digital ID comprising their profile photo and passport information and upload their Covid-19 credentials, selecting relevant flight information.

The IATA Travel Pass is at the forefront of digital health pass solutions being developed, allowing customers to verify that they meet the health criteria needed to travel between certain countries, with evidence of a negative Covid-19 test. Future versions of the app will also



The IATA Travel Pass is at the forefront of digital health pass solutions being developed.

incorporate vaccine records. The free app is currently being considered by governments around the world to support the restart of international travel at scale and Virgin Atlantic will

seek approval from the UK Government to expand the trial, to accommodate customers arriving at the UK border on Barbados-Heathrow flights.



Caribbean Tourism Forecast For Rebound



Will The Caribbean Rebound in 2021?

COVID-19 is sparing few, and the Caribbean tourism sector, the backbone of many regional economies, has been hit by a wrecking ball, leading to a decline of 21 million tourists to the region in 2020 compared to 2019. But the Caribbean Tourism Organization, (CTO), is forecasting better news this year. The Caribbean's performance in 2021, CTO officials say, is for a 20 percent rise in arrivals and a similar increase in visitor expenditure, when compared to 2020.

But the agency admits this will depend largely on the success of the authorities in the marketplace and the region in combatting, containing and controlling the virus and the vaccine roll-out taking place in North America, Europe and the Caribbean.

Many countries are still reeling from the massive percentage drop of 65.5 percent last year. That means just over 11 million visitors ventured to the Caribbean compared to the record 32.0 million tourist visits in 2019.

The impact was particularly evident during the period of April to about mid-June when there was literally no activity in some of destinations, according to the organization.

This was characterized by empty hotels and restaurants, deserted attractions, shut borders, laid-off workers, grounded airlines and crippled cruise lines. Some destinations still remain closed to visitors, with limited airlift primarily for repatriation of locals and cargo and cruise lines plying Caribbean routes remain non-operational due to a strict ban imposed by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC).

Now its left to be seen if vaccines and the return of expanded flights to several destinations and reimagined cruising can help the Caribbean tourism sector rebound.

~ *Rewritten from NewsAmericasNow.com*



New Airline Launching Soon.

A new regional airline is set to begin service to four regional countries soon despite the pandemic.

The carrier from Suriname, is scheduled to start flying to Guyana and other countries in the region in the near future. "Fly All Ways," will be operating to Suriname, Guyana, Barbados and Curacao. It will fly from Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana.

Guyana signed an Open Skies Agreement with

Suriname last December to broaden connectivity and tap into new and existing markets with the Dutch nation. The agreement was lauded for the opportunities it will open for both countries in the areas of travel, tourism and trade. In recent months, US carrier - JetBlue has gotten approval and has begun its operations in Guyana, while Virgin Atlantic and other carriers have also applied to ply the Guyana route.



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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF MIRAMAR NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM (NSP)

March 28, 2021

The City of Miramar is an entitlement recipient of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. As a grantee, the City received emergency assistance funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to facilitate the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed and abandoned properties that might otherwise become sources of blight within the community. The City of Miramar has purchased and rehabilitated several properties with NSP funds. The two remaining properties will be available to income qualified households through a lottery process with Purchase Assistance from the City of up to \$140,000.

9811 W. Heather Lane, Miramar FL 33025
6749 Petunia Drive, Miramar FL 33023

2020 Income Limits

Household Size	Low Income 0% to 50% AMI
1	\$31,200
2	\$35,650
3	\$40,100
4	\$44,550
5	\$48,150
6	\$51,700
7	\$55,250
8	\$58,850

NSP Lottery Timeline

March 29, 2021 – May 27, 2021

Applicants are required to contact a lender to be pre-approved for a mortgage. Applicant(s) may use any lender as long as the lender agrees to the NSP underwriting criteria located at www.crafla.com. A list of lenders who have worked with the Program can be found on the website.

Community Redevelopment Associates of Florida staff will contact applicants to schedule an appointment to attend the open house upon receipt/review of the lender pre-approval letter.

Pre-approval letter must be received by May 27, 2021.

Open House

June 2, 2021; June 5, 2021 and June 9, 2021

* You must have an appointment to attend an open house.

*Masks are required to view/enter the NSP Properties.

Lottery Drawing

June 17, 2021

City of Miramar
Commission Chambers

2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025
6:00 PM

Questions regarding the lottery process should be directed to Community Redevelopment Associates of Florida, Inc. at 954-431-7866, ext. 111. You may also e-mail dcreary@crafla.com for additional information.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in these Hearings should contact the Office of the City Clerk at least 48-hours prior to the hearing at (954) 602-3011 for assistance.

City of Miramar
Denise A. Gibbs, CMC
City Clerk

15800 Pines Blvd #3076, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027



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Here's Where Caribbean Countries Stand In The FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

It's World Cup soccer season, even if it may not feel like it. In case you have not been following the qualifiers, here's where Caribbean countries stand in their FIFA World Cup bid.

There are 35 teams competing from North, Central America and the Caribbean in five groups – A-F.

In Group A

After two matches played, Antigua & Barbuda is tied with El Salvador for 4 points after winning one of their 2 matches and drawing the second. Grenada has 3 points after winning 1 match and losing the second while Montserrat has 2 points after drawing both matches. The USVI has yet to score a point after losing both of their matches.

In Group B

Suriname is tied with Canada for 6 points after winning both of their matches. Bermuda has three points after winning one of its two matches while Aruba and the Cayman Islands have no points after losing both matches.

Group C

Curacao is tied with Guatemala on 6 points each after winning both their matches. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has 3 points while Cuba and the British Virgin Islands are zero. St. Vincent and the Grenadines ended an



Haiti beat Belize in their first clash in Group E.

eight-match losing streak in FIFA World Cup qualifying with a 3-0 triumph over British Virgin Islands in Willemstad, Curacao.

Group D

In Group D, the Dominican Republic is tied with Panama for 6 points while Barbados has three and Dominica and Anguilla, nil. Barbados was made to work overtime to end a strong challenge from an Anguilla side who had avoided defeat in just one of 11 previous World Cup qualifiers.

Group E

In Group E, Haiti, Belize and Nicaragua has three points apiece after winning one match and losing another. Turks & Caicos and St. Lucia both have zero on the points

table. Belize got their Qatar 2022 qualification campaign up and running with an assured victory over Turks and Caicos Islands.

Group F

And in Group F, Saint Kitts and Nevis leads the group with 6 points, after winning all two of their matches. Trinidad and Tobago has four points while Guyana has three. T&T won one of their matches and drew the other while Guyana won one and lost the second. Puerto Rico has one point in the Group after drawing one match while the Bahamas has so far lost both matches. Guyana won their first World Cup qualifier since November 2011 and did so decisively.



Chris Gayle Has Gone From Cricketer To Singer

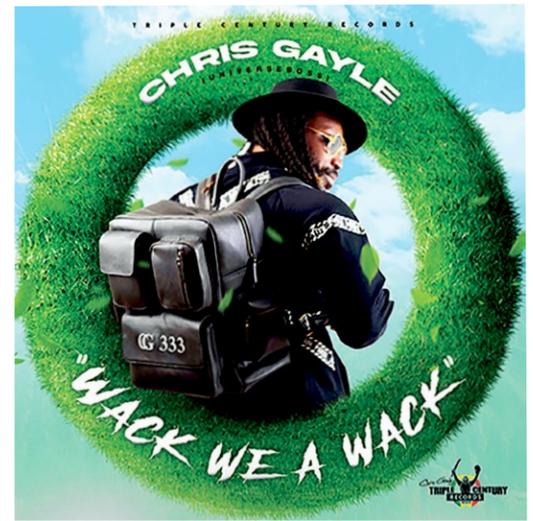
West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle is proving why he is known widely as the "UniverseBoss." The Jamaican born star is showing he is multi-dimensional, adding recording artist to his resume.

Gayle has released "Wack we a Wack," which shows is fun side while sending an important message and sharing a new dance move. The single was written by Gayle and his team, Camar

"Flava" Doyles and Georvin Briscoe at Triple Century Records and focuses on cutting off those persons who don't wish you well and are only there to use you because of who you are.

"We wanted a high energy dancing song that the people can move to and once we created the hook 'Wack we a Wack,' everything else just came together nicely," Gayle explained. "There are persons around you that aren't happy for you they are just there to use you and we don't want no bad vibes or negative energy around us. Who not adding value to your life we a wack off the link."

Gayle also sees his newfound platform as an opportunity to share more with his fans and connect with them even more than he currently does as an award winning sports personality.



Chris Gayle has released "Wack we a Wack."

The song's launch comes as 10CRIC has announced Gayle as their new brand ambassador. He will be the face of the brand for the next 2 years and it reinstates 10CRIC's position as a leading cricket betting brand in India.

"We are over the moon with the fact Chris has agreed to promote our brand, we see in him the perfect match to represent the 10CRIC values – he is a winner, full of fun and always aims to please and surprise his fans," the company said in a statement. "This is what 10CRIC is all about and we hope that through the image of Chris Gayle we will be able to introduce the brand to an even wider audience of cricket passionate looking to have fun while watching cricket."

~ NewsAmericasnow.com



Contention Again Surrounds Cricket West Indies

Contention again surrounds the West Indies cricket brand as the Annual General Meeting that was set to include the election of the new management for another year has now been postponed to April 11th following the snubbing of the boards of two countries.

The Barbados Cricket Association and the Guyana Cricket Board both snubbed the March 28th virtual meeting, leaving the meeting short of a nine-member quorum and forcing its postponement.

More significantly, the postponement stalled the presidential elections which were expected to pit the GCB's Anand Sanasie against incumbent president Ricky Skerritt and the BCA's Calvin Hope against CWI vice-president Dr Kishore Shallow.

Both Sanasie and Hope subsequently announced they were dropping their bid for the CWI leadership.

The BCA and GCB contended that CWI had not provided the audited financial statements the stipulated 14 days in advance, therefore not giving



The antagonism comes as the West Indies team is finally starting to shine again. Rookie Nkrumah Bonner made his maiden Test hundred during the recently concluded drawn test series.

them enough time to peruse them and thus causing their representatives to skip the AGM.

But Cricket West Indies chief executive, Johnny Grave, said territorial boards had been sent the audited statements 14 days before the AGM as required. The consolidated

financial statements, however, which were only required because of the recent acquisition of Coolidge Cricket Ground, had been issued to shareholders on March 26th.

Grave also stressed that the consolidated statements had also been a late request from the

auditors.

"This is the first time in our history we've had consolidated financial statements and that's because we now own Coolidge Cricket Ground Inc, a subsidiary company," Grave told Starcom Radio's Mason and Guest cricket show.

"Other than the rental income from the Antigua Athletics Club and some car park rent, all the costs of running that cricket ground are already in the CWI accounts, so the substantial difference between our financial statements and those consolidated with CCB are extremely minor," he explained. "That's why the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and the Finance Committee approved the audited statements on Tuesday, March 9, that's why the Board of Directors approved them on March 11 subject to those consolidated audited statements."

Grave said with the two-week postponement of the AGM, he hoped it would now provide enough time for the BCA and GCB to look over the consolidated statements, so a quorum could be had, and the

meeting proceed as scheduled.

"I very much hope, maybe naively, that the 11th will happen. Barbados said clearly that they wanted longer to look at the consolidated statements so they now would've had four weeks to look at the CWI accounts and two further weeks to look at the CCG accounts," he added. "I would like to think that on that basis the BCA would attend."

The meeting comes as West Indies head coach Phil Simmons has urged authorities in the Caribbean to prepare more results-oriented pitches, following a nil-all draw in the recent two-Test series against Sri Lanka.

Both matches finished in tame stalemates on flat wickets at the Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium and Simmons said it was important to provide more competitive pitches in the region in order to lift the profile of Test match cricket.

~ Rewritten from CMC





US Ignores Caribbean In Vaccine Diplomacy

The US plans to send millions of doses of stockpiled AstraZeneca vaccine to Mexico and Canada but none to the Caribbean.

The vaccine diplomacy with Mexico comes as the Joe Biden administration, with a Caribbean roots Vice-President, tries to curb a massive flow of immigrants from the Mexican border who have streamed in since Biden lifted the Trump rolls on COVID-19 and loosened asylum application processing.

Mexico had publicly asked the Biden administration to send it doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in a video call this month. At the time, Biden did not agree. But as some 14,000 unaccompanied minors have come into the US and the Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, herself called it a "crisis" Thursday, the US is now ponying over 2.5 million doses of the vaccine to Mexico and 1.5 million to Canada.

The Caribbean is out in the cold, putting the United States far behind China, India and Russia in the race to use vaccines as diplomatic tools in the Americas, including the Caribbean.

India and Beijing have shipped thousands of vaccines to the region as has Russia even as Biden has drawn criticism for not making it easier for poorer countries to gain access to generic versions of coronavirus vaccines and treatments.

A Caribbean minister of government has urged the US to donate COVID-19 vaccines to the Caribbean.

St. Kitts and Nevis Minister of Foreign Affairs Mark Brantley made the formal request to the US Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados as The US plans to send millions of doses of stockpiled AstraZeneca vaccine to Mexico and Canada - but none to the Caribbean.

Brantley is urging the Joe Biden administration to also make vaccines available to the small



The US has sent no vaccines to the Caribbean, but India and China have stepped up.

island developing states.

"It would perhaps be useful for them to think of their third border, the Caribbean," he said.

The region will have to depend on China, India and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Gavi, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The bodies have worked to get 15 Caribbean countries over 2 million free doses of COVAX COVID-19 vaccines which will reach them by May.

The 15 Caribbean countries that will receive the vaccines are Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, and Trinidad and Tobago. Six of these countries (Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines).

Jamaica has already gotten 14,400 doses, becoming the first country in the Caribbean to receive the COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility. Jamaica is expected to continue receiving doses through May until it reaches 124,800, the amount specified by COVAX.

Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Jamaica, the country has recorded 31,305 confirmed cases and 492

deaths as a result of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to official data from the country.

COVAX seeks to provide vaccines for at least 20% of the population of each participating country during 2021. In this first round of vaccine allocation, all COVAX participating countries will receive doses to vaccinate between 2.2 and 2.6% of their population. The only exceptions are small island developing States, which will receive an allocation of vaccines to cover between 16 and 20% of their population, due to the high logistical cost of delivering small quantities of vaccines.

In response to vaccine hoarding by a select few nations, including the US, CARICOM nations drafted and successfully negotiated an OAS resolution that was adopted by acclamation. The "Resolution on the Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines" was co-sponsored by all CARICOM states as well as eight other OAS members, and it argued that "the world will not survive if 15 percent of the world holds for itself 60 percent of vaccines, and 85 percent of the people must struggle for an equitable share."

The Biden administration, however, is asleep to that reality as its Third Border neighbors struggle on their own.

~ NewsAmericasnow.com



Guyanese Journalist Is Latest COVID-19 Fatality



Guyanese journalist Namela Baynes-Henry died of COVID-19 on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

A Guyanese journalist has become the latest victim of COVID-10 in the South American CARICOM nation. Namela Baynes-Henry died of COVID-19 on Thursday, March 25, 2021, just over two weeks after being hospitalized with the virus. Local media reported that the 63-year-old passed away in the Intensive Care Unit of the

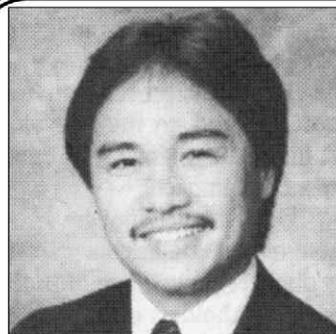
Infectious Diseases Hospital where she had been admitted after testing positive.

According to reports, she reportedly suffered a heart attack and slipped into a coma on Sunday. She never regained consciousness. The Guyana Press Association has extended its sympathy to Baynes-Henry's family and loved ones.

Guyana now has 223 deaths from COVID-19 and is closing in on 10,000 infections. Henry was the founder of the First Look Morning Show and First Look News on Channel Nine. She was also the former Personal Assistant/ Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of Legal Affairs. In more recent

years, worked at the Department of Public Information and the Guyana Chronicle.

~ NewsAmericasNow.com



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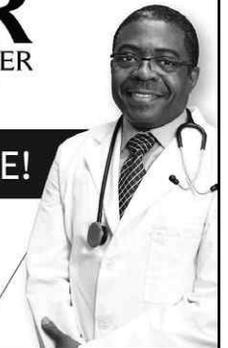


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NEWS



Florida House Eyes Cuts For Nursing Homes, Hospitals

The Florida House Speaker has rolled out a health care spending proposal that includes deep cuts, including slicing Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes by 2 percent, or \$80.4 million in state and federal funding.

The proposal, unveiled by House Health Care Appropriations Chairman Bryan Avila, R-Miami

Springs, for the upcoming 2021-2022 fiscal year would spend less than what the Senate has proposed. Florida Health Care Association President Emmett Reed said the proposed Medicaid cuts to nursing homes would translate to about a \$125,000 reduction in payments per facility per year.

Similar to the Senate proposal,

the House health-care plan recommended reducing Medicaid payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care by \$288 million.

Moreover, the House plan proposes eliminating \$226 million from what the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida calls the "critical care fund." The fund is



The state Legislature is proposing deep cuts, including slicing Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes by 2 percent.

used to offer enhanced Medicaid payments to 28 hospitals that provide the largest amounts of charity care in the state, according to the industry group.

In all, the House proposed spending roughly \$42.1 billion across the state's six health care-related agencies. By contrast the Senate released a \$42.3 billion proposal. The proposals are an early step that will ultimately be part of House and Senate leaders negotiating a final budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Jointly funded by the state and federal governments, Medicaid is a safety net program that provides

health coverage to poor, elderly and disabled residents. Enrollment in Florida's Medicaid program stands at more than 4.5 million people, an increase of more than 730,000 people in the past year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state.

Reducing nursing home reimbursements by 2 percent "saves" about \$31.1 million in state dollars, about one-third the amount the House needs to fund the extension for postpartum women.

~ *Rewritten from News Service of Florida*



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Study To Gauge Acceptance Of COVID-19 Vaccines Among Health Care Workers



Public Health Nurse, Marcia Thomas-Yetman, was the first person in Jamaica to receive the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine.

In an effort to help country officials better understand the concerns, attitudes and intended practices of Caribbean health care workers regarding COVID-19 vaccines, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Subregional Caribbean office has launched a survey which will inform a targeted regional communication campaign for this priority group.

The survey will target health care workers in 14 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

It will seek to ascertain attitudes to vaccines in general, intentions to take

and recommend COVID-19 vaccines, factors influencing these intentions, and general attitudes towards the COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

PAHO/WHO has recommended that health care providers be the first group to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Health care workers are also recognized as significant influencers of health-related attitudes and behaviors related to vaccination in their communities.

This group is being prioritized for communications to support them in accepting COVID-19 vaccines, as well as to ensure they are equipped to share correct knowledge with their patients and other members of the public.



It's National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month, and this year, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) is focusing on the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on racial and ethnic minority communities.

This year's theme for National Minority Health Month is #VaccineReady as the OMH is also highlighting the need for these vulnerable communities to get vaccinated as more vaccines become available.

Getting A COVID-19 Vaccine In Florida

The State is currently now allowing any adult 18 and up to get the vaccine.

Registering

The Florida Division of Emergency Management launched a statewide preregistration system for COVID-19 vaccine appointments. Eligible residents can visit myvaccine.fl.gov to pre-register for vaccine appointments that become available in their area.

Those who have registered will be contacted by phone call, text, or email when appointments become available.

Broward County

If you would prefer to register for the COVID-19 vaccine in Broward County by phone, call 866-201-6313 (TTY: 833-476-1526).

For a list of state and county-run vaccine locations, visit:

broward.org/CoronaVirus In addition to Department of Health initiatives, numerous hospitals and local pharmacies and retail stores in Broward County are administering the vaccine. Check websites frequently for updates.

Hospitals and Clinic Locations:

- Broward Health of Corals Springs
- Broward Health Imperial Point
- Broward Health Medical Center
- Broward Health North
- Cleveland Clinic
- Florida Medical Center
- Holy Cross
- Memorial Hospital Miramar
- Memorial Hospital Pembroke Pines
- Memorial Hospital South
- Memorial Regional Hospital
- Plantation General Hospital
- University Hospital
- Westside Regional Hospital
- Local Pharmacies and Retail Stores:
- Walmart and Sam's Club registration
- Walmart.com/COVIDvaccine or samsclub.com/covid
- Publix registration publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida
- CVS registration cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine
- Winn-Dixie registration winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine

Miami-Dade

In Miami-Dade, county-run vaccination sites are now open



NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

#VaccineReady | April 2021

to anyone 40 and over according to Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. County sites include Tropical Park, Zoo Miami and Homestead Sports Complex.

Federally Supported Sites

- Miami Dade College North campus is the first federally supported vaccination site to open in South Florida. Appointments are not required, but they are recommended. The site is open every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is a walk-up, which means people wait in line instead of in their car. Anyone who would prefer to book an appointment, visit myvaccine.fl.gov.

The FEMA pop-up sites are at Charles Hadley Park in Liberty City and at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay. The sites will run from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. every day until March 23. The sites will then return to Sweetwater and Florida City to administer second-dose Pfizer shots. You can just show up because the sites don't take

appointments. Anyone who lives in Florida and falls under the state's vaccine criteria can get the vaccine at MDC North. This includes people with at risk conditions who have an "at risk" form signed by their physician. A doctor's note is also accepted. Pre-K-12th grade school employees and childcare workers can also get the vaccine.

State-run sites in Miami-Dade County include Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens and Marlins Park in Miami.

Pharmacies:

The following pharmacies offer COVID-19 vaccines in select stores by appointment-only:

- Publix stores in Florida offer vaccines, although the website frequently says appointments are "fully booked." Visit publix.com/

covid-vaccine/florida.

- Navarro Discount Pharmacies and CVS y más stores in Miami-Dade. Some traditional CVS stores across Florida also have doses. To check for availability, visit CVS.com or call customer service at 800-746-7287.
 - Some Winn-Dixie and Fresco y Más stores offer vaccines in South Florida. For Winn-Dixie, visit winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine. For Fresco y Mas, visit frescoymas.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine.
 - Some Walmart and Sam's Club stores offer vaccines, including in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. To schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at Walmart, visit walmart.com/COVIDvaccine. For Sam's Clubs, visit samsclub.com/covid.
 - Some Walgreens stores offer vaccines, including in Palm Beach County. To check for availability visit walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp
- To find the designated number for your county, visit floridahealthcovid19.gov.



Caribbean Born Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Encourages All To Get The COVID-19 Shot

Caribbean-born Lauderdale Lakes Mayor, Hazelle Rogers, is urging all Caribbean Americans and all Floridians to get their COVID-19 vaccines once they are eligible.

Mayor Rogers recently received her second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the parking lot of Walmart Supercenter located at 3001 N. State Road 7 in Lauderdale Lakes, FL under the sounds of "DJ Mickey Mike" with WZOP Radio.

Mayor Rogers had received her first round of the COVID-19 vaccine about a month ago. "We all have to do our part to keep each other safe," stated Mayor Rogers during the on-air interview.

The importance of reaching everyone, including the Haitian American community, was reiterated. As a result of collaboration with neighboring cities and the partnership with Walmart, 140 vaccines went into arms by the time the mayor



Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Hazel Rogers getting her final COVID-19 vaccine recently.

arrived on March 22nd, and approximately 4,676 running by the end of the day.

Beginning on Monday, March 29, 2021, persons 40 and older began receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, and on Monday, April 5th, all persons 18 and older will be eligible to receive the vaccine. Pre-register at www.myvaccine.fl.gov or call (866) 201-6313 to schedule an appointment. Lauderdale Lakes residents can also dial (954) 535-2807 for the City to schedule your appointment.



Leading.

At Jackson, your health is our priority all year long. April is National Minority Health Month, but in our health system your wellbeing is a priority 365 days a year. That's why we've been out there since the beginning of this pandemic, urging everyone to wear masks, avoid crowds and save lives. And that's why we'll be out there through April and beyond, vaccinating our community and keeping you informed of the facts around vaccination. We've seen, firsthand, how this terrible virus has singled out some in our community: people with diabetes, high blood pressure, minorities. We've responded with additional outreach deeper in our community, partnering with churches and non-profit groups to get seniors and high-risk individuals vaccinated. Together, we shall overcome. A healthier, happier future is on the horizon.

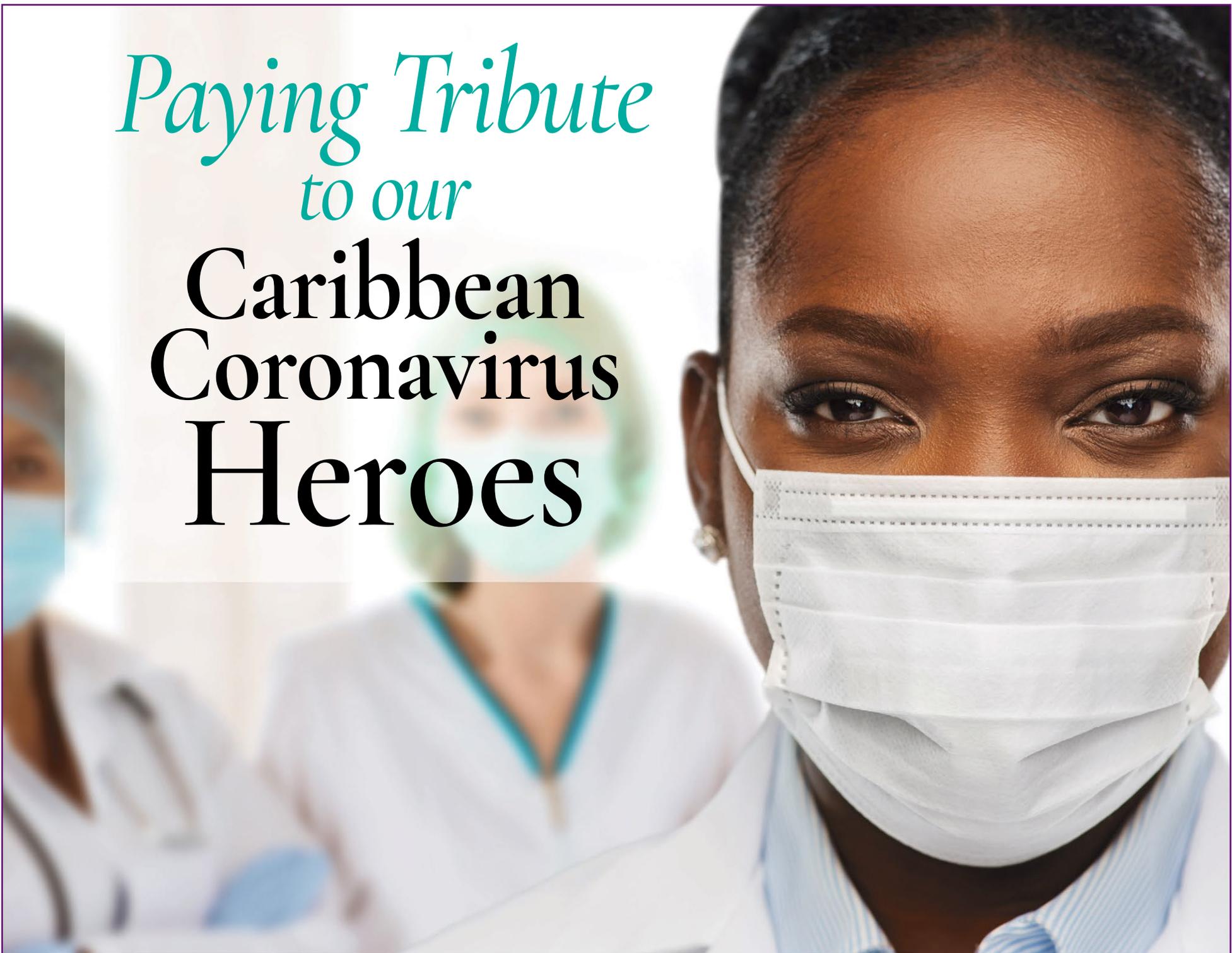
Visit JacksonHealth.org for a specialist or for more information on COVID-19.



Learn more about our COVID-19 safety practices at SafeAtJackson.org.



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