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JUNE 2024

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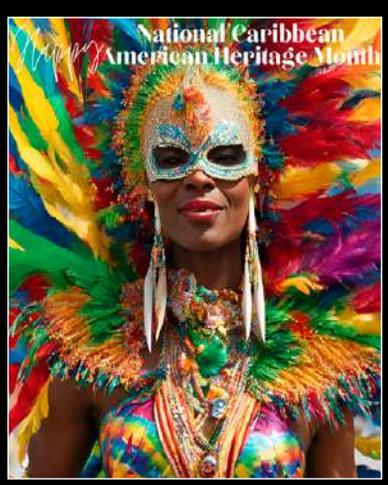
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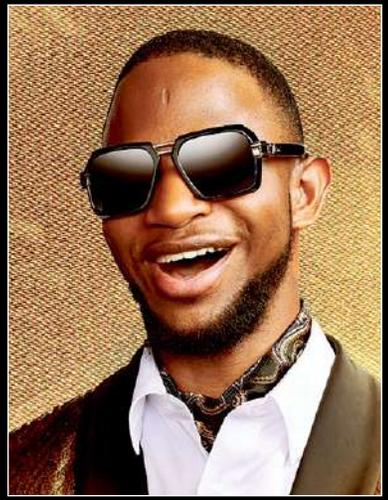
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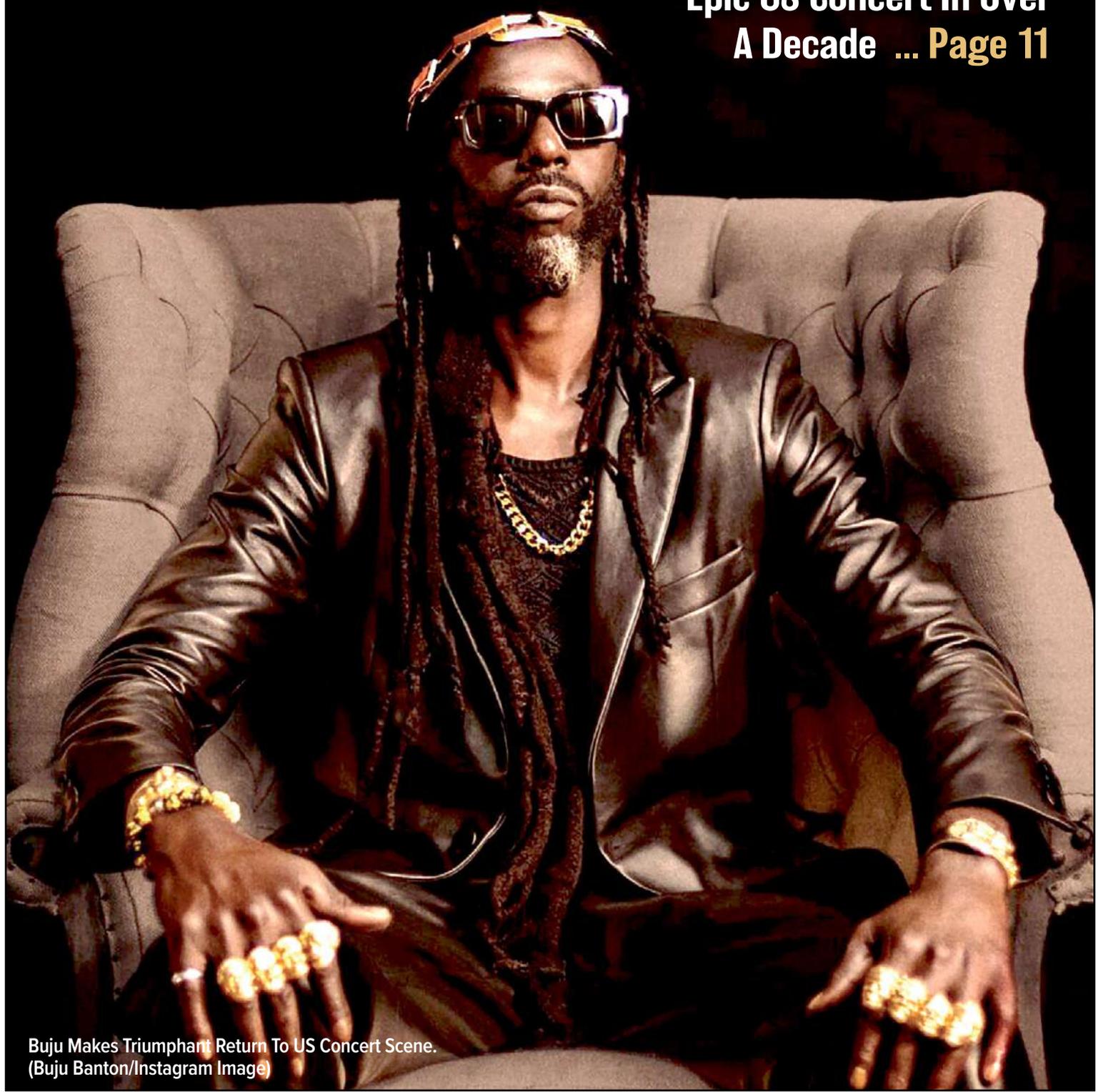
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Buju Makes Triumphant Return To US Concert Scene. (Buju Banton/Instagram Image)

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

REGIONAL

Tens of millions of people in coastal areas of the Caribbean and Latin America are facing "life-threatening" weather events exacerbated by the climate crisis, according to a new United Nations report.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) report, released on May 28th, revealed that 41 million people – about 6 percent of the region's population – are exposed to severe storms and flooding. The report also highlighted that nearly 1,450 hospitals crucial to maternal health and family planning are located in low-elevation coastal areas prone to natural hazards. Notably, more than 80 percent of hospitals in Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Suriname, the Bahamas, and Guyana are situated in these vulnerable zones.

The findings came as regional leaders gathered in Antigua and Barbuda for a Small Island Developing States summit to address the climate crisis and other issues. Small island states across the Pacific, Atlantic, and Caribbean, with minimal emissions, are particularly vulnerable to economic crises and rising temperatures due to their exposure to natural disasters, high debt, and reliance on imports and tourism.

"It is not sufficient for nations to simply make empty and grossly inadequate commitments under the

Paris Agreement," said Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the conference president. Browne also urged wealthy nations to honor their pledge to provide \$100 billion annually to poorer countries to help reduce emissions and mitigate extreme weather impacts.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries committed to limiting emissions to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

GUYANA

Guyana's Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has reported continued aggression by Venezuela, including a buildup of troops at the shared border.

Addressing a video circulating on social media showing Venezuelan troops constructing a bridge on Ankoko Island, Dr. Jagdeo reminded citizens that Ankoko Island is a shared border area between Guyana and Venezuela. He noted that Venezuela had "forcibly taken over" the island and acknowledged the troop buildup.

Dr. Jagdeo stated that Guyana has alerted relevant agencies about Venezuela's attempts to establish a threatening presence at the border, which is inconsistent with previous agreements. He reiterated that both countries signed the



The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), was held in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27th. The line-up of speakers began with a re-recorded message from King Charles. "Your voices galvanize more urgent action," he said to the room of representatives from small island developing states from around the world. (Loop Caribbean image)

Argyle Declaration in December 2023, agreeing not to threaten or use force against each other.

Despite the border controversy, the presidents of Guyana and Venezuela have engaged in discussions to improve bilateral relations.

TURKS & CAICOS

A US Congressional delegation met with Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam of this British Overseas Territory following the arrest of US nationals for possession of ammunition. The meeting, requested by the

delegation and attended by Premier Charles Washington Misick, addressed concerns for the well-being and legal process of five US nationals facing charges.

The individuals, from Oklahoma, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Florida, claimed they inadvertently brought ammunition on vacation. Strict gun laws in the Turks and Caicos Islands, introduced in 2022, impose a mandatory minimum sentence of 12 years plus a fine for such offenses.

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam and Premier Misick emphasized

the separation of powers, stating they cannot intervene in legal cases. The UK Government's representative reaffirmed confidence in the local judicial system, and the meeting concluded with a commitment to ongoing US-Turks and Caicos partnerships to address regional security threats.

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

St. Kitts & Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew says he is aware of two civil lawsuits alleging "underselling" within the Citizenship By Investment (CBI) Programme between 2021 and 2022, including one filed in the United States.

Underselling occurs when CBI developers offer discounts below the statutory minimum investment for citizenship. The Florida lawsuit also alleges underselling in another jurisdiction by movie producer Philippe Martinez of MSR Media.

Drew said he discovered these issues shortly after taking office and ordered a review of the CBI program. "Our administration swiftly closed legislative loopholes that facilitated underselling and initiated an internal review," he stated.

- Compiled from CMC News & Loop Caribbean



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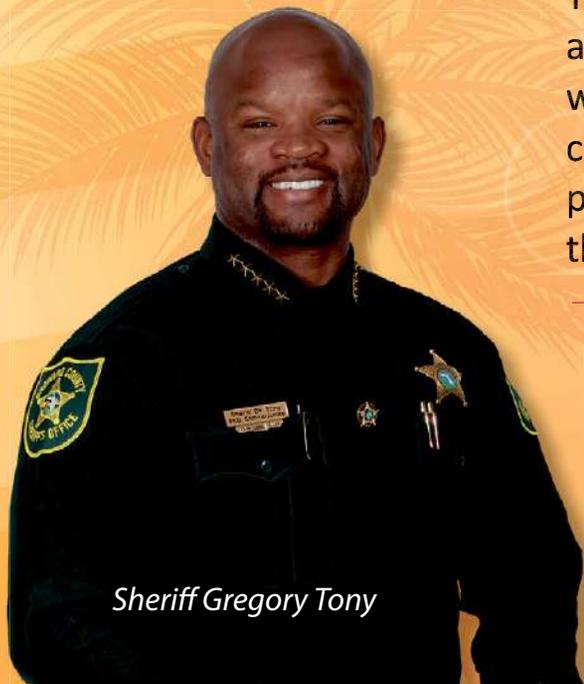
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Sheriff Gregory Tony

Biden Again Declares June 2024 National Caribbean American Heritage Month

US President Joseph R. Biden Jr. has again officially proclaimed June 2024 as National Caribbean American Heritage Month, celebrating the contributions and diverse cultures of Caribbean people in the US. In his proclamation, President Biden highlighted the unwavering commitment of Caribbean Americans to the nation's core values of opportunity and freedom.

"Caribbean Americans are dreamers and doers, always finding ways to push our country forward," President Biden stated, while recognizing the vital roles played by Caribbean Americans in various sectors, from healthcare and education to entrepreneurship and public service. For yet another year, he made special mention of the key figures in his administration with Caribbean heritage, including his Jamaican roots Vice President



The U.S. Caribbean heritage Vice President, Kamala Harris and U.S. President Joe Biden have launched a nationwide campaign to court black voters, a group that has traditionally come out in favor of Biden, but their support is projected lower than it was in 2020. (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

Kamala Harris, Cuban born Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and his Martinique-born, Haitian heritage, White House Press Secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre,

who have all done very little to celebrate or focus on the region.

But the proclamation emphasized the Administration's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for all, showcasing

a historic economic recovery that has significantly benefited Black and Latino communities. Additionally, President Biden underscored the importance of partnerships with Caribbean nations, citing substantial investments in infrastructure and economic support for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). He pointed to initiatives such as the Crime Gun Intelligence Unit and the deployment of the Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti were highlighted. The Administration also supports the reauthorization of the HOPE/HELP trade preferences program to bolster Haiti's economic growth.

President Biden, who is facing a tough re-election bid after alienating his core base of black, Caribbean and

immigrant voters, also reiterated his commitment to fixing the immigration system to be more humane and orderly, particularly for those fleeing violence in the Caribbean. The Administration, he said, aims to expand lawful pathways to the U.S. and expedite asylum claims for those seeking protection even as it moves to close the borders.

As National Caribbean American Heritage Month begins, President Biden encouraged all Americans to celebrate the rich history, culture, and achievements of Caribbean Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Since 2006, every US President has declared June CAHM.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



These Are The Caribbean Nations Now Recognizing Palestine As A State

As the death toll in Gaza continues to rise from Israel's continued war on the strip, support globally continues to grow for a Palestinian state. Fourteen Caribbean nations now officially recognize the State of Palestine.

They are:

- Jamaica
- Barbados
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Suriname
- Cuba
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- The Dominican Republic
- And Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago became the latest country in May to

announce its decision to formally recognize the State of Palestine which it said will assist in the achievement of a lasting peace by strengthening the growing international consensus on the issue of Palestinian statehood. They followed Barbados and Jamaica which announced their support weeks earlier.

"Recognition of Palestine is moral and just and demonstrates Trinidad and Tobago's acknowledgment of and support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian People," the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago said in a statement.

Currently, 146 out of 193 UN members recognize Palestine as a state. Slovenia is expected to recognize Palestine by June 13th. Given Ireland's and Spain's European Union memberships, it is also hoped the move will put

the status of Palestine firmly on the agenda during the June 6-9th EU elections.

In practical terms currently it does not make a big deal of difference for Palestine.

However, any move from the international community towards giving Palestine greater recognition gives its diplomats extra sway in any negotiation or summit.

It also allows Palestine to enter into bilateral agreements as an independent state.

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Florida Resident Sues Caribbean Officials Claiming CIP Fraud

A Florida resident has filed a lawsuit against several high-ranking Caribbean government officials and private developers, claiming collusion to defraud investors. Among the defendants named in the lawsuit are Mc Claude Emmanuel, CEO of the Saint Lucia Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIP), former St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Ministers Timothy Harris and Dr. Denzil Douglas, and developer Caribbean Galaxy Real Estate Limited.

Philippe Martinez, a movie producer of MSR Media, filed the lawsuit in Florida, alleging that officials and developers

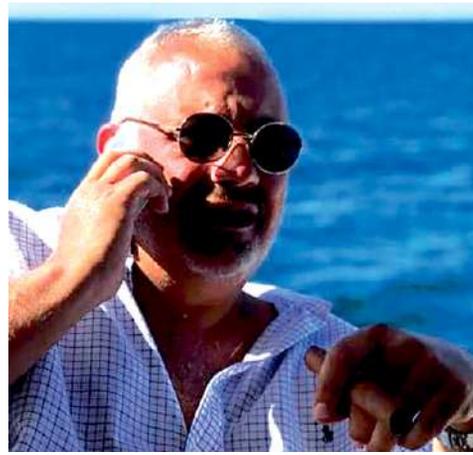
engaged in fraudulent practices related to the Citizenship by Investment Programs (CIP) in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Saint Lucia government has distanced itself from these allegations, emphasizing that the claims do not pertain to its own CIP.

The Saint Lucia government stated that it has no business with Martinez and that his allegations are specific to the CIP in St. Kitts and Nevis. "The Government of Saint Lucia is not in a position to comment on the management of the CIP in Saint Kitts and Nevis," the statement read.

The government also defended Emmanuel's

performance, asserting, "Mr. Mc Claude Emmanuel's role as the CEO of the Saint Lucia CIP Unit is exclusively for the efficient administration of the CIP Unit in accordance with the policies set by the laws of Saint Lucia. To date, Mr. Emmanuel has performed his role commendably and ethically."

Addressing claims that Caribbean Galaxy Real Estate Limited operates in Saint Lucia, the government clarified that the company first entered an agreement in



Philippe Martinez, a movie producer of MSR Media, filed the lawsuit in Florida, alleging that officials and developers engaged in fraudulent practices related to the Citizenship by Investment Programs (CIP) in St. Kitts and Nevis.

March 2018 under the previous administration. The Canelles Project, approved as the first CIP Real Estate Project in 2018, continues with a completion date set for the end of 2025.

Saint Lucia reiterated its stance against any discounting or underpricing of citizenship, ensuring that the full, legislated investment sum must be paid by every applicant. The government expressed full confidence in Emmanuel's management of the CIP Unit and pledged to defend its reputation against any false and malicious attacks.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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UN Specialist Now PM Of Haiti

U.N. development specialist Garry Conille has been named Haiti's new prime minister as of May 28th, following nearly a month of deliberations within a fractured transitional council.

This appointment came amidst escalating violence in Port-au-Prince, where gangs are wreaking havoc by opening fire in previously peaceful neighborhoods and using heavy machinery to destroy police stations and prisons.

Council member Louis Gérald Gilles told The Associated Press that six out of seven voting council members chose Conille. The seventh member, Laurent St. Cyr, was not in Haiti and did not vote.

Conille, who has been UNICEF's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean



New Haiti PM Garry Conille (Reuters image)

since January 2023, previously served as Haiti's prime minister

from October 2011 to May 2012 under President Michel Martelly. He replaces Michel Patrick Boisvert, who was acting as interim prime minister following Ariel Henry's resignation in late April.

Henry was on an official trip to Kenya when, on February 29, a coalition of powerful gangs launched coordinated attacks, seizing control of police stations, targeting Haiti's main international airport, and storming the country's two largest prisons, releasing over 4,000 inmates.

- *Rewritten from AP reports*



Chevron, Exxon Likely To Face-Off Over Guyana

The stage is set for a major oil showdown over Guyana as Hess Corporation shareholders approved the \$53 billion acquisition by Chevron on Tuesday. However, the deal's timeline remains uncertain due to a dispute with Exxon Mobil over Hess' assets in Guyana.

A majority of Hess shareholders voted in favor of the merger, though the exact tally was not disclosed. CEO John Hess expressed confidence in the transaction's value and anticipated its successful completion.

The deal faces potential jeopardy as Exxon claims a right of first refusal on Hess' 30% stake in the Stabroek Block, a significant offshore oil field in Guyana. Exxon, which leads the development with a 45% stake, filed for arbitration in March to assert its rights under the joint operating agreement. The remaining 25% stake is held by China National Offshore Oil Corp.

Chevron and Hess informed investors that the merger could be terminated if Exxon prevails

in arbitration. Hess stated that the deal's completion hinges on the resolution of these proceedings, with both companies aiming to finalize the merger "as soon as practicable."

Chevron spokesperson Bill Turenne expressed confidence that the arbitration will favor Chevron, while Exxon CEO Darren Woods remains optimistic about Exxon's position, anticipating arbitration to extend into 2025.

The merger, initially expected to close in the first half of 2024, is delayed due to the ongoing arbitration. Additionally, the deal is under scrutiny by the Federal Trade Commission.

Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) advised shareholders to abstain from the vote until more details on the arbitration timeline emerge, while Glass Lewis recommended voting in favor, citing the strategic and financial merits of the merger despite the uncertainty.

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Should Mark Golding Renounce His British Citizenship?

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Mark Golding, leader of the opposition People's National Party (PNP), in Jamaica is being labeled a "hypocrite" for not declaring or renouncing his British citizenship.

The divisive issue came to national attention in early May, two months after a contentious local government election. Loudest calls about Golding's British citizenship have come from the governing Jamaica Labour Party, (JLP), who point to a statement Golding made in May, stating that persons with dual citizenship should be eligible to be president, if Jamaica becomes a republic.

That stance is part

of the PNP's platform for Constitutional Reform discussions currently taking place as Jamaica seeks to join other Caribbean countries by breaking from the British monarchy and becoming a republic.

"We're not in favor of a phased approach to decolonization. We're not in favor of having one foot in and one foot out of the King's yard. We [have to] decide to be in or out. It can't be neither fish nor fowl. Time come to deal with this matter once and for all," said Golding.

Shortly after he made that statement, JLP parliamentarian and minister Daryl Vaz revealed that Golding has a British

passport. He claimed Golding first applied for a Jamaican passport in 2011 when he was 46 years-old, which the opposition leader has not denied.

In 2007, Vaz was one of several JLP parliamentarians the PNP aggressively lobbied to renounce their dual citizenship. In the aftermath of that motion, a number of their PNP colleagues were forced to do the same, as Jamaican law prohibits persons with such status from serving in the country's parliament.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, speaking on local television, weighed in on the Golding issue. He described his opponent's situation as "untenable and incurable" and dismissed the idea that persons seeking to be Jamaica's PM should hold citizenship of any other country.

Golding, a lawyer, is the son of Sir John Golding, an English orthopedic surgeon who went to Jamaica in 1953. His expertise was critical in fighting the polio scourge there



Mark Golding, leader of the opposition People's National Party (PNP), in Jamaica has said he is a Jamaican citizen by birth and a UK citizen by descent.

during the 1950s; the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre in Kingston is named in his honor.

Golding argues that he remains a British citizen and there is no legal basis for him to renounce that status at this time.

"I am a Jamaican citizen by birth. I am also a UK citizen by descent. I have not renounced my British citizenship as it is not legally necessary for me to do so," he told The Gleaner newspaper.

To reinforce his position, he pointed to Section 39 (a) of the Constitution, which states that "... any person who at

the date of his appointment or nomination for election, can serve in Parliament as long as he or she "is a Commonwealth citizen of the age of 21 years and upwards."

Members of the PNP believe the Holness administration disclosed Golding's private information because recent polls show them trailing the opposition by eight per cent, with just over one year before general elections are constitutionally due.

On Twitter, Golding posted: "Don't be distracted! We need to be focused on the real issues facing our country! Cost of living, Crime, Corruption, Education, Unemployment, Affordable Housing."

The JLP won seven of the 13 councils in local government elections in February but lost the key municipalities of Kingston and Portmore.

Currently, the JLP holds 49 of the 63 seats in Jamaica's parliament. The country's previous general election was held in September 2020 and gave the then popular Holness a second term. The next general elections in Jamaica is due by September 2025.



Countdown On To Jamaica Diaspora Conference

The countdown is on for the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, set for June 16th to 19th at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. The conference will cover a range of topics, including crime, education, agriculture, investment, technology, artificial intelligence, and the creative industry, with a focus on youth contributions. It is being held under the theme 'United for Jamaica's Transformation: fostering peace, productivity and youth empowerment.'



Jamaica's Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Alando Terrelonge, announced that the conference program is nearly finalized. (JIS Image/Adrian Walker)

Jamaica's Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Alando Terrelonge, announced that the conference program is nearly finalized, with moderators and presenters being confirmed. He emphasized the importance of input from the Diaspora, highlighting the expertise they bring.

The conference will commence on Sunday, June 16, with a church service endorsed by the Jamaican Council of Churches, followed by the official opening ceremony. From June 17 to 19, the event will feature Power Breakfasts, discussions, and presentations, fostering growth and development for Jamaica and Diaspora businesses.

Courtney Campbell, CEO of VM Group and Conference Chair, noted the program's diverse topics influenced by the diaspora. The event aims to ensure mutual benefits for both Jamaica and its Diaspora, with a theme of 'United for Jamaica's Transformation: fostering peace, productivity, and youth empowerment.'

A highlight will be the youth

innovation challenge by the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council, encouraging young Diasporans to present innovative ideas for Jamaica's development. Discussions will also focus on artificial intelligence, the creative industry and other areas in which young people can contribute.

From Monday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 19, there will be Power Breakfasts, including talks and presentations.

Meanwhile, several Jamaicans abroad who have contributed towards their community of residence and in Jamaica will be awarded the Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA). The awards presented biennially, recognizes Jamaicans who are leading change within their communities abroad, while simultaneously having an impact on Jamaica. The awards are presented in two categories – persons aged 18 to 35 and 35 and over.

Persons registering online can visit the Ministry's Evenbrite website: diasporaconferenceja.evenbrite.com. The platform provides additional information, such as hotel accommodation and early bird prices for registrants.



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Bahamian American U.S. Congresswoman Enshrined Into Miami-Dade County Women's Hall Of Fame

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

In a career that spans over 50 years, U.S. Congresswoman Fredrica Wilson knows the ins and outs of politics and education.

Wilson, a Democrat from Miami and a longtime educator before entering the political arena, doesn't shy away from criticizing Republicans for sponsoring legislation that impacts the Black and Caribbean communities - such as attempts to block her higher education bill to lower college costs, preventing equity education, lack of healthcare benefits for kids and limiting abortion.

Wilson herself is poised to take on leadership in Congress by launching a nationwide crusade for better salaries for teachers who are leaving the profession in record numbers, and advocating for education and workforce programs, creating a national commission to address the social status of Black boys and men, additional free transportation for disabled people and legislation to crackdown on sex trafficking.

But her pet project, 5000 Role Models of Excellence, a mentoring program to prevent Black youths from dropping out of school and deter them from a life of crime, is probably her greatest achievement.

For all she has done from being a teacher and principal, to serving on the Miami-Dade County School Board, state House of Representatives and Congress, Wilson, the first Bahamian American in Congress, was recently honored with an induction into the Miami-Dade County Women Hall of Fame.

The seventh-term U.S. Rep. for the 24th District was recently inducted along with Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle and former Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

The Women's Hall of Fame was established by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners in 2021 to honor and recognize women who have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all citizens of Miami-Dade County.

Popular for sporting her trademark colorful cowboy-like hats, Wilson was overwhelmed by the honor and suggested she has no plans on slowing down at 81-years-old.

"I stand here today, not only as myself, but as a representative of the countless

Black women who have fought so long for progress and for justice in our community," said Wilson during the ceremony. "I was raised to fight and to persevere and how to start good trouble. So, from the pioneering suffragists who fought for a woman's right to vote to the fearless activists who continue to champion civil rights and social justice today, the women of Miami-Dade County have shaped the course of history, but note that our work is far from over. As we celebrate our achievements, we must also recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight."

Wilson takes her place next to her mentor former U.S. Congresswoman Carrie Meek who was posthumously enshrined last year.

Wilson, a Miami native, is representing the same district as Meek, which was previously occupied by her son Kendrick Meek, who gave up his seat to run for the U.S. Senate.

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairperson Oliver Gilbert said Wilson's induction reflects her decades of work and dedication to better the lives of everyone.

"The butterfly effects of your service are immeasurable," Gilbert said. "Every child you touched probably saved a spot in the graveyard or incarceration, and I appreciate that."

Wilson said her parents underscored the importance of education while she was growing up. She earned her bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Tennessee and her master's from the University of Miami, both in elementary education.

Wilson was a principal of Skyway Elementary School in Miami, and subsequently served on the Miami-Dade County School Board where she started the 5,000 Role Models of Excellence program. She left the school board to serve in the Florida House of Representatives from 1998 to 2002 and served in the Florida Senate and now Congress.

Not forgetting her Bahamian roots, Wilson has advocated for the Bahamian American community including securing \$10.3 million dollars in appropriations for the development and maintenance of the Bahamian Museum of Arts and Culture.



U.S. Congresswoman Fredrica Wilson was recently inducted into the Miami-Dade County Women Hall of Fame. (Photo credit: Miami-Dade County)

Her efforts have ensured that future generations can learn about and celebrate the rich history, traditions, and contributions of Bahamian-Americans to the fabric of

American society.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava called Wilson a trailblazer who touched the lives of so many people in the community

and public service. "To our Congresswoman, Frederica Wilson, you are just a joy," said Cava. "Everything that you do, you do with incredible spirit and determination, and you call out injustice, you fight for our rights, and you've represented us since 2011 with dignity and passion. The legacy that you have left improving education, health, jobs, transit, everything, you are part of it, and you are here, and you answer when we call."

Wilson's counterpart, Republican Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, said the two always don't agree on the issues but she's a leader and willing to fight all the way for constituents.

"She is kind but tough and loyal. And she has dedicated her life, not only to serve the community, but particularly to young people who may be lost, who are now not lost because of you Frederica, so thank you for your leadership," Diaz Balart said.



Caribbean Heritage, British Artist Presented With Damehood At Windsor Castle



Black Caribbean heritage artist Sonia Boyce.

Black Caribbean heritage artist Sonia Boyce has been presented with her damehood at Windsor Castle by the Prince of Wales.

Following the investiture ceremony, Dame Sonia spoke to the PA news agency, expressing her desire to use her elevated profile to continue advocating for the arts. Born in Islington, north London, in 1962, to a Guyanese father and a Barbadian mother who met and married shortly after arriving in the city, Dame Sonia was honored for her services to the arts in the King's New Year Honours list in 2024.

Reflecting on the moment she received the news of her damehood, she said, "It was very hard for me to reconcile when I got the letter saying,

'We'd like to offer you the damehood'. I was like, really? Trying to put myself in what I imagine a dame to be. It took a while for me to reconcile that yes, I could take that on somehow."

Dame Sonia made history in 2016 as the first black woman elected to the Royal Academy of Arts and is a professor of black art and design at the University of the Arts London. She commented on her damehood, saying, "It's a recognition of work that not only I have done but has been done over the decades to acknowledge and, I suppose, reward the contributions that many have made. So I feel very privileged - slightly shocked still - to be in this position and also to be an advocate for the arts. We so

need that at the moment - the arts are just incredible, they're not an add-on, they're integral to everyday life."

Dame Sonia emphasized the importance of the arts, stating, "The arts are really about if you've got something to say, or you're envisaging something, you're in a dialogue with everybody about it. So it really is about 'Come and take part, come and add to the conversation, come and dream your dreams'." She also noted the evolving inclusivity of the Royal Academy of Arts, saying, "The Royal Academy of Arts is becoming much more inclusive, and people have fought very hard to make that possible. Of course, it needs to open the doors to a really diverse group of artists who are in a renaissance at the moment. There is so much creativity going on."

Discussing the broader cultural landscape, she added, "In the UK, we've still got a long way to go, but in the same way that British culture is always slightly quirky and often ahead of the curve, the creative industries are punching above their weight."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



South Florida To Mark Another Caribbean American Heritage Month

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Broward and Miami-Dade leaders and residents are gearing up to celebrate the rich history of Caribbean immigrants in the South Florida area as the US again gears up to mark the 18th National Caribbean American Heritage Month this June.

A string of Caribbean-inspired events, featuring music, food, dancing, literature, arts and crafts and comedy shows, just to name, are set to take place across cities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

The celebration is a time to reflect on the impact the Caribbean nations had on American history, as well as Caribbean-born people who became leaders and took their communities to new heights.

South Florida constitutes a large Caribbean population that includes Jamaicans, Haitian-Americans, Bahamian-Americans, Dominican Republic, and people from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Florida is home to an estimated 1.6 million Caribbean immigrants, representing approximately 41 percent of the Caribbean immigrant population in the United States, according to the US Census and the Migration Policy Institute.

Broward County had the highest number of Jamaican immigrants in the United States, with some 86,600 people. Broward County also has a large Haitian population, with 117,251 people as of May 2024.

In Miramar, a city of some 150,000, Jamaican roots Mayor, Wayne M. Messan, leads a city with a large Caribbean population while Vice Mayor and Miramar's Commissioner, Alexandra P. Davis, also has roots that stretch to Jamaica. Data also shows Miramar is home to a high share of Jamaican residents - at 15.4 percent in 2000. There is also 8.77 percent Cubans; 6 percent Haitians; 1.98 percent Dominicans and 1.2 percent Trinidadians.

The cities of Miami and North Miami, meanwhile, have a large Haitian-American population. As of February 2024, Miami's Haitian population is estimated to be around 30,000 people, which has remained relatively unchanged since the start of the century.

However, the U.S. Census estimates that more than 300,000 people with Haitian ancestry live in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, and some believe this number is an undercount. The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area is also home to the largest population of Haitians in the United States, with 335,708 people of Haitian ancestry, or 5.5% of the population, as of 2020.

Haitian roots Alix Desulme is the mayor of North Miami. The three cities and all of South Florida will celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month with a host of events this month.

MIRAMAR EVENTS

Miramar has outlined several events during the month of

June, hosted by Messan and commissioners, in conjunction with cultural affairs groups and non-profits organizations.

"As a son of Jamaican immigrants, the celebration of Caribbean American Heritage resonates deeply with me," he said. "It highlights not only our cultural richness but also the integral role that Caribbean Americans play in every facet of American history. Our contributions are woven through the very fabric of this nation, from arts and education to politics and business."

Miramar will kick off **Caribbean American Heritage Month** with a celebration on **June 4, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at the Miramar City Plaza, 2300 Civic Center Place.

Residents can participate in Yoga with a Caribbean theme each Saturday in June and a Zumba Caribbean theme hosted by Messan at the civic center. Also the mayor will host Soca Step on the second Friday in June.

On Monday, **June 10, from noon-5 p.m.**, Miramar will presents *American Arts and crafts sale from noon to 5 p.m.*, and *Caribbean Crafty Kids from 1 to 2 p.m.*, both events at the Miramar Branch Library, 2050 Civic Center.

On **June 19th, Miramar will celebrate Juneteenth Family Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the civic center, hosted by Commissioner Yvette Colbourne, and Majah Issues Comedy Tour, will take center stage on June 21st at 6 p.m. also at the civic center.

June 22nd will feature two events - a book launch for **An Evening with France from 4 to 6:30 p.m.** at the Miramar Civic Center Banquet Hall, 2400 Civic Center Place, a **Taste of the Caribbean Island from 3 to 11 p.m.**, hosted by Vice Mayor Davis at the Miramar Amphitheater, 16805 Miramar Parkway.

For Caribbean art lovers, residents can see on display **Timeless Passion Art Exhibit from June 3rd until August 7th**, at the civic center.

MIAMI

The City of Miami is also recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month with the annual Bahamian Goombay Festival in Coconut Grove, which draws thousands of people to the event since the Caribbean islands are a melting pot of cultures, shaped by various influences. The City of Miami celebrated Caribbean American Heritage month with the annual Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival from May 31st to June 2nd in Coconut Grove.

The event, which debuted in 1977, celebrates the arrival of the first Bahamian settlers in Coconut Grove before Miami incorporated in 1896.

Thousands of Festival goers took part in junkanoos, live performances, ate Caribbean-inspired food and mixed and



Chef Irie, I., seen here at the recent **Food, Wine and Fete** event last month in Miami, will host a **Greet and Cookbook Signing on June 9th at Taste the Islands at Las Olas Oceanside Park.** (Photo: Ricardo Reyes/Food, Wine And Fete)

mingled about their culture's impact to the City of Miami along the Grand Avenue corridor.

U.S. Congresswoman Fredrica Wilson, who is of Bahamian descent, kicked off the Goombay festival with a speech during a City of Miami Commission meeting in Coconut Grove.

Miami City Commission Chair Christine King was part of the festivities suggesting celebrating one's heritage is an important occasion with the diverse cultures in Miami-Dade County.

On **June 8th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, celebrate **Caribbean Pride and Food Distribution** at 809 NW 119th St. Presented by Community Health & Empowerment Network, Farmshare, State Representative

Dotie Joseph and other partners, this vibrant gathering offers an exploration of the region's culture.

And on **June 30th**, the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami will host an immersive **Artisan Workshop from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** It will be led by Shop Zhuzh and by Debbie Mott-Strachan, a master weaver from the Bahamas and the owner and Creative Director of Depre Bahamas. Dive into the vibrant world of weaving and unravel the significance of this traditional craft in the heart of the Caribbean. Discover the rich tapestry of Bahamian culture through the art of weaving and let your creativity flourish. Limited spots available! RSVP by calling 305-893-6211.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Embrace the vibrant culture of the Caribbean this June as The LOOP Fort Lauderdale Beach hosts the Second Annual Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebration, presented by the City of Fort Lauderdale Beach Business Improvement District.

The celebration at Las Olas Oceanside Park will feature Caribbean culture through food, art, music, and entertainment. The events are free and open to all ages, taking place during the weekend MKT every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Food – Taste the Islands

June 9: Chef Irie Meet & Greet and Cookbook Signing, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Artist Showcase – Colors of the Islands, June 23rd

Pieces of Jamaica Book Signing with Photographer David Muir, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jamaican Flair: Carnival Costumes & Mask Making with Island Space Caribbean Museum, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Music & Dance – Island Vibes

June 8: Spotlight on Puerto Rico with Sabor Latino, noon – 3 p.m.

June 15: Spotlight on Cuba with Oriente Quartet, noon – 3 p.m.

June 22: Spotlight on Trinidad & Tobago and The Bahamas with Pan Paradise, noon – 3 p.m.

June 29: Spotlight on Jamaica with Paul Anthony & The Reggae Souljahs, noon – 3 p.m.

Reggae Sundays hosted by Tanto Irie, every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Special Events

June 8th: One Love One Ocean Beach Sweep, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

June 23: SFCC Socaton, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

June 28: Movies by Moonlight screening of "Cool Runnings," 8 p.m.



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From Modest Seaweed To Luxury Bags

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Nature has a way of guiding us. All we have to do is be open to her guidance and tap into our innate creativity. That's just what Grenadian artist Richie Modeste has done.

The 27-year-old has created beautiful eco-friendly bags from seaweed. This marine algae, that grows in the sea and washes up on the shores of this eastern Caribbean island, means Modeste will have an everlasting supply.

The southernmost island in the Antilles archipelago, Grenada is rich in spices, notably the nutmeg, one of its major exports. Cocoa is also a major export. And it was from this main chocolate ingredient where Modeste got his inspiration.

THE JOURNEY

Modeste explained that as an artist/painter he has always been inspired by natural elements like leaves, grass and tree bark. And besides painting, there was a feeling of wanting to craft. That led him to making bags from cocoa leaves, which he used to hold the paintings that were purchased. That's where the journey began.

"I started practicing with other natural materials, trying to manipulate them and see how I

could use them," the artist told Caribbean Today recently.

"I stumbled upon the seaweed by accident," he added. "I was experimenting with stuff like tree bark, tall grass, different kinds of leaves and it was just not working. All the materials failed, even the seaweed failed. But there was this one piece that fell off from when I was processing it. And probably about two or three days later I found it on the floor."

Surprisingly, it looked way better than the others that had spoiled," said Modeste. "So I was wondering what made this different, which process made the difference. So, I decided to try again. And eventually when I saw the result, I was like, wow!"

With support from the Grenada Investment Development Corporation, which helped in purchasing tools and equipment, Modeste working from his studio, started creating his Felicity 25 luxury unisex bag collection.

Indeed, it is a complex process. After collecting the

seaweed from the beachfront, he washes them and then prepares them for drying. He places them in trays and leaves them in the sun to dry naturally.



Artist and seaweed bag maker, Grenadian Richie Modeste. (Contributed image)



A model shows off one of the bags from the finished Felicity 25 collection. (Contributed image)

The first phase of drying compresses the seaweed and the second stage completely removes any leftover moisture or scent. This process takes two to three months. Then it takes an average of two weeks to make one bag, putting more than 60 pieces together.

Asked about his designs,

Modeste described his creative process: "I create the idea in my head, the shape of the bag and everything. But then the material has its own pattern and that's the interesting part. So as I work with it, the pattern gives the bag the whole artistic feeling. It brings the artwork to life, the feel, the touch, the texture. These are the things that reveal themselves after everything is put together"

SARGASSUM

The young entrepreneur added that he has been exploring the idea of using sargassum, a particular kind of macro-algae, in his products.

This seaweed has been inundating Caribbean and Atlantic shorelines in unprecedented massive quantities, creating havoc to coral reefs, entangling dolphins and sea turtles, devastating local fishing as well as tourism industries. As sargassum begins to rot, it releases hydrogen sulfide gas and ammonia, emitting a foul smell.

There are many reasons for sargassum's aggressive growth - including farming and industrial nutrients flowing into the oceans,, and climate change as a result of warming temperatures or unusual fluctuations in rainfall.

But, in spite of all of this, and acknowledging that this particular

genus would be more demanding and complicated to work with because of its natural oils and variety of contaminants, Modeste will continue to investigate its potential.

For now, he is positive about the success of his unique bags. At US\$194.26 for the seaweed version and US\$166.51 for the bags made from coconut fiber, The Felicity 25 collection is making a mark on the island.

Available through Modeste's Instagram or Facebook accounts, the bags must be pre-ordered, based on the time it takes - from design to finished product. The artist's next step is for international exposure as he continues to experiment with new and novel ideas no matter how challenging.

"It's not worth living life without challenges," Modeste said. "In every challenge and every achievement comes even happier moments that will actually inspire you to keep going forward. So by just starting, it's already a win... I love adventure and I love and trying out new stuff. So, adventure and creativity together, that's me."



Miami's Haitian-Born Artist Curates Tampa Museum OF Art Show

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Edouard Duval Carrie, a Haitian-born contemporary artist and curator based in Miami, is the curator behind a large collection of Haitian artwork that is now hanging in the Tampa Museum of Art.

Despite Florida having the largest Haitian population in the country, the Tampa Museum of Art has only been collecting Haitian artwork since 2000.

Carrie said that Bank of America recently gave the museum a grant from its Arts Conservation Project to help restore some of their most historically significant artifacts and 75 Haitian art pieces, ranging from paintings to tapestries, as part of the museum's Albrecht Collection.

He said the trust of San Francisco attorney Arthur Albrecht Revocable, an avid collector of Haitian artwork, donated the collection of 20th Century work by Haitian artists and sculptures to the museum. Revocable died in 2018.

Carrie, an artist for 30 years, said the Haitian artwork has never been seen in public before. "The museum asked me to be the curator for the collection," he told Caribbean Today recently. "I have never seen artwork like that in my life. Restored work was so beautiful that it was part of the collection."

Carrie, whose work has been shown in solo exhibitions in Haiti,

the Dominican Republic, Colombia, France, Mexico, as well as in several states of the United States, said the trust donated 90 Haitian art pieces, but he had to narrow his choices down to 27 to hang in the museum.

"As the curator, I looked at all the collections and picked the best and that made a big impact on Haiti and the Caribbean culture," he said. "The 27 are part of the collection I believe were the best."

But Carrie said the artwork should be in museums in Miami-Dade County, like the Miami Museum or Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, since it has the largest Haitian population in Florida.

"It's a shame the collection didn't come here because there are more Haitian people in Miami than Tampa," Carrie said.

Revocable's connection to Haitian artwork is unknown but his collection included Andre Pierre's 1973 Erulie oil on canvas and his 1975 Lady Erzulie Freda painting on canvas. Pierre died in 2005.

According to his trust, Revocable collected the paintings 34 years ago.

Revocable's collection



Haitian Artist and curator, Edouard Duval Carrie, curated the Reframing Haitian Art: Masterworks from the Arthur Albrecht Collection exhibition for the Tampa Museum of Art. (Photo credit: Edouard Duval Carrie)

also included first and second-generation artists linked to Centre d'Art, Haiti's premier art school and visual art center.

Joanna Robotham, The Tampa Museum of Art's Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, said 'Reframing Haitian Art: Masterworks from the Arthur Albrecht Collection,' pushes against the traditional norms of a museum show.

Some of the paintings are hung lower than expected, giving the viewer a chance to practically step inside the work.

"So, it's almost like you are entering the creative mind of the Haitian artists, having much more of an intimate experience," Robotham said. "And some of the other paintings, which depict voodoo gods, are hung a little bit higher, which represent those gods

are respected at a higher level than us mortals."

Robotham said the artists in the exhibit were influenced by the bright colors of Caribbean life. But those colors had been diminished over the years until the restoration effort allowed them to be returned to nearly original condition. Robotham added that the Tampa Museum of Art has one of the largest holdings of Haitian art in the United States.

Because the museum has such a large number of excellent works of art from their neighbor to the south, visitors as well as the many transplanted Haitians in the region, can admire Haiti's complex history through art.

"This show gives some attention to an island country that's in a lot of need for help right now and deserves to be in the forefront of people's minds," she said.

Carrie said Haitian artwork hanging in museums is a victory for the Haitian community since it's a long shot for Haitian artists to get their work recognized by art lovers or sold at auctions. "It's very difficult and very complicated," he said. "It depends on what your intentions are, if it's important and interesting and who buys it."

He added that it was a challenge to get his artwork in local museums and art galleries. "I'm not a superstar but I'm pretty respectable," said Carrie.



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Immigrants Are Again Political Football This Silly Season

As of today, June 3, 2024, we are 155 days away from the general elections on November 5th. Yet, it is already “silly season” and immigrants are once again being used as political pawns in a landscape where the American voters choice is limited to two elderly white men - who arguably should have retired long ago, considering America’s own retirement age.

On one side of the political field is Joe Biden, who leveraged the immigrant vote in 2020 by promising to overturn Donald Trump’s xenophobic policies. To date, we are still waiting for that promise to be fully realized. Biden has adopted a stance on immigration that mirrors Trump’s, including the deportation of Haitians back to Haiti - a country the U.S. has deemed unsafe for travel since July 2023, even airlifting out all non-essential embassy staff in March.

Three years into his administration, Biden’s actions indicate a commitment to continuing harmful and ineffective immigration policies rather than supporting and welcoming immigrants as he pledged during his 2020 campaign. His administration continued to enforce Title 42, a Trump-era policy ostensibly aimed at protecting public health, but primarily intended to limit immigrant entry. It was ended by the courts, not Biden.

Additionally, The White House is considering executive action to restrict migrants’ ability to seek asylum at the US-Mexico border if they crossed illegally – a maneuver reminiscent of controversial action from the Trump era. Biden also endorsed a bipartisan Senate border bill that includes funding for the Trump border wall, which he previously

vowed not to finance. On the opposing side is the former President, the Xenophobe-in-Chief, who continues to rally his base with divisive, racist, fascist, and xenophobic rhetoric. His inflammatory statements, such as claiming immigrants are “poisoning the blood of our country,” cater to his followers’ racist inclinations. He has promised to implement unprecedented measures against both legal and unauthorized immigrants, including a massive deportation blitz.

The indicted former president and front-runner for the Republican nomination is relying on the same hard-line immigration tactics he used in his 2016 campaign. He has pledged to build more miles of border wall and impose strict limits on asylum, including reviving a program that required migrants to await their asylum hearings in Mexico.

Trump has also vowed to execute the “largest deportation operation” in U.S. history, modeled after the Eisenhower administration’s infamous “Operation Wetback” in 1954, which deported hundreds of thousands of Mexican immigrants and American citizens. To facilitate these mass deportations, he plans to authorize the National Guard and state officials to arrest and deport immigrants living in the U.S. in an undocumented capacity, a move that would challenge longstanding legal limits on the military’s involvement in domestic law



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

enforcement. He has also pledged to invoke the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 to deport suspected migrant gang members, a law cited during World War II to justify the surveillance and detention of Italian, German, and Japanese immigrants.

While Trumpy is barking away like a fat Chihuahua, it is funny that Barack Obama, deported more immigrants than

Trumpeto, despite the latter’s policies of caged children and Muslim bans.

And so the political theater continues unabated. Who will emerge victorious in this match-up remains to be seen. For now, immigrants will continue to be scapegoats and political footballs, with the justice system being their only potential safeguard.

Who can immigrant voters

trust in this fraught political landscape come November 5th? That remains the billion-dollar question.

Felicia J. Persaud is the publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, a daily news outlet focusing on Black immigrant issues.



What’s Love Got To Do With It?

Based on all the niceties and pleasures that love is supposed to bring, chronicled by great scribes, poets and singers, you’d think that everyone would want to be loved. Far from it though, and in fact it was Lord Tennyson who asked: “Is it better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all?” But what is true, is that love is powerful, and with power comes

not only great responsibility, but danger, making some persons shy away from it, choosing instead other emotional paths to pursue, other pleasures to entertain, rather than love.



TONY ROBINSON

That’s why the question has often been asked, especially by kings, politicians, rulers and even dictators: “Is it better to be loved or feared?” Was Hitler loved or feared?; was Genghis Khan, Attila the

Hun, Stalin? Were they loved or feared? But this is not about rulers, but rather about ordinary people who are involved in relationships, especially men who often find it difficult to even say the word love.

There are some men who say: “I’d prefer a woman who respects me more than loves me.” A woman’s love is so special, and it’s hardly likely that she’ll love you and not respect you. Is it better to be loved than desired? This may vary between genders, for many women really crave love, and can live without the desire component. But you cannot bring that argument to most healthy able bodied, libidinous men.

The women may differ. “I can live without the desire, but I can’t live without love.”

That’s why men can love their wives who don’t desire them, but go with another woman who desires him but doesn’t necessarily love him. It’s a sort of physical, emotional compromise.

Many men like to be in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

EASING RESTRICTIONS

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VIEWPOINT



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Guyana's Oil Deal With ExxonMobil Needs Urgent Renegotiation

BY ARTHUR PICCOLO

On May 26th, as Guyana marked its 58th year of independence, the Guyana President's steadfast support for the current oil contract with ExxonMobil, which he justifies by the "sanctity of contracts" and fears that renegeing could deter future investments, is nothing but worthless political nonsense.

Respect for legitimate contracts is fundamental to international business and legal systems. It must never be a shield for perpetuating agreements that starkly disadvantage one party your own Guyana. The previous administration that approved this deal are either dangerously corrupt or fools – or probably both. The notion of "sanctity of contracts" implies a mutual benefit derived under fair terms. The contract in question, as analyzed extensively, is outrageously unbalanced – 2% royalty on all petroleum produced and sold. However, ExxonMobil has been paying only 0.5%. This is not sanctity of contracts; this is blatant exploitation of CARICOM the



The Guyana flag flying at Bowling Green, NY on May 24th to mark the 58th anniversary of the country's independence on May 26, 2024. (NewsAmericasNow.com image)

nation.

Contracts, especially those involving national resources and affecting the socio-economic fabric of a country, must be living documents characterized by fairness. The international precedent is rich with examples where countries have renegotiated contracts that no longer serve their interests or have been found unfair. Countries like Brazil,

Ecuador, and even oil-rich nations in the Middle East have all renegotiated oil contracts to secure terms more favourable and equitable than those initially agreed upon.

The only legitimate path forward is for the Irfaan Ali administration to demand a renegotiation of the contract at the very least 50% for Guyana and 50% for Exxon. This is not just about securing more

favourable financial terms but about asserting sovereignty and ensuring that the wealth derived from Guyana's natural resources serves the people of Guyana first and foremost.

The current government must show the world that Guyana respects the sanctity of contracts by insisting that this so called contract respect the sanctity of your nation's future. Guyana suffered bitterly for hundreds of years from Colonialism. We cannot allow it

to be perpetuated it in the 21st century by this Exxon contract.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Arthur Piccolo, the President of the Bowling Green Association of New York, delivered this letter as his remarks on May 24, 2024, during a flag raising to mark Guyana's independence anniversary at Bowling Green, NY.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



What's Love Got To Do With It?



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

control, and if they aren't, the relationship will not work for them. That's why some guys will always gravitate towards women who are much younger than them, much smaller, emotionally needy, lower social class, and even less educated than them. Those men then feel superior and in control. Which goes back to the question: "Is it better to be loved or feared?"

That's why some men will physically and emotionally abuse their women, because it makes them feel big and strong. "I'm in charge, and she does what I say. Fear brings that, not love," is what some men proclaim.

And some women do fear their men without having a shred of love for them. Ironically, some do not mind, as it gives them a sort of misguided sense of protection. "I know that if I step out of line, I'll be punished, that makes me feel protected." Is there some sort of 'Daddy Issues' percolating there, or just a lack of self esteem, self worth, self love?

Some men seek out those women who in turn are drawn to that type of man like a moth to the flame, a strange, surreal symbiosis with both feeding off each other.

But what perils does love bring that make some men prefer the alternatives? "This love thing brings too much baggage and emotions, and I can't deal with that;" or "Love generates obsession and jealousy."

Hmm, so men aren't really hung up on love in the same way that women are. Most women will choose love over everything else. Someone deep into church told me that nowhere in the Bible it says that a man should love a woman. The Jamaican song by The Meditations also alludes to this:

"Never let a woman know how much you love her, Cause there won't be no peace in your life, Never let a woman know how much you care, Cause they will do things to hurt you, and it's no joke about it."

Yet, there are people who profess to love each other but don't really like each other. Is that possible? Maybe it is.

I've heard women say: "I really hate it that I love him so much. I don't really like him." Tina Turner sang: "What's love got to do with it?" Then there are some who prefer friendship over love. "I don't love you anymore, can't we just be friends?"

It's complicated, but if you prefer respect, desire, friendship and fear, without love, then more power to you. I'll take love.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson is an independent contributor to Caribbean Today and the views expressed here are his own. He can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com for feedback.



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Caribbean American Sean Kingston Waives Extradition Hearing In Fraud Case

Caribbean American rapper and singer Sean Kingston has waived his right to fight extradition in a California court and agreed to be turned over to authorities in Florida. Kingston, 34, and his mother, Janice Turner, are charged with committing over a million dollars' worth of fraud.

Kingston did not make a public court appearance but signed papers agreeing to skip extradition hearings, as confirmed by representatives from San Bernardino courts and the sheriff's office. California sheriff's officials will coordinate with the Broward County Sheriff's Office to return him to Florida.

Kingston was arrested on May 23rd, at Fort Irwin, an Army training base in California's Mojave Desert, where he was performing. His mother, 61-year-old Janice Turner, was arrested the same day when a SWAT team raided Kingston's rented mansion in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

They are charged with conducting an organized scheme to defraud, grand theft, identity theft, and related crimes. According to arrest warrants from the Broward County Sheriff's Office, they allegedly stole money, jewellery, a Cadillac Escalade, and furniture. The warrants specify thefts amounting to nearly \$500,000 in jewellery, over \$200,000 from Bank of



Sean Kingston will be returned to Florida to answer fraud charges. (TikTok/Sean Kingston official image)

America, \$160,000 from the Escalade dealer, over \$100,000 from First Republic Bank, and \$86,000 from a custom bed maker.

Kingston was already on two years' probation for trafficking stolen property. His mother previously pleaded guilty to bank fraud in 2006, serving nearly 1.5 years in prison for stealing over \$160,000.

Robert Rosenblatt, an attorney for Kingston and Turner, stated they planned to waive extradition and looked forward to addressing the charges in a Florida court, confident of a successful resolution.

- NewsAmericasNow



Vybz Kartel and Co-Accused to Remain In Jail

Campbell and Andre St John, were denied release on Thursday, May 30th, after a judge rejected their habeas corpus application. Judge Andrea Thomas ruled that their continued detention was not in breach of the Constitution, stating that the charge of murder remains in effect pending a verdict or acquittal by the Privy Council.

The court session, initially delayed due to a large turnout, was moved to a larger courtroom before the ruling was delivered. A contingent of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and Jamaica Defence Force was stationed outside the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston during the session.

The habeas corpus application, filed on May 13 by lawyers representing Kartel, Campbell, and St John, argued that the Privy Council had not issued an order for



Vybz Kartel must remain jailed for now.

their continued detention and, therefore, they should be released. This move followed the Privy Council's March 14 ruling, which quashed the men's 2011 murder convictions of Clive 'Lizard' Williams due to juror misconduct and directed Jamaica's Appeal Court to determine if a retrial is necessary. The application sought their release ahead of the Court of Appeal's scheduled retrial hearing set for June 10. Kahira Jones,

Get Ready For Buju Banton's Long Walk To Freedom Concert - USA



'The Gargamel' Buju Banton is set to perform in the U.S. for the first time in over a decade this July at the UBS Arena in Elmont, New York. (X/Gargamel Music image)

The last time Grammy-winning, Jamaican-born, reggae singer Buju Banton performed in the US was January 2011 in Miami. Weeks after his return to the US following his 2018 release from an American prison, the singer will thrill fans with his first "Long Walk To Freedom" US concert.

'The Gargamel' Banton is set to perform in the U.S. for the

first time in over a decade on Saturday, July 13th and 14th at the UBS Arena in Elmont, New York. The legendary singer will take the stage with his Shiloh Band, just two days before his 51st birthday on July 15th.

"I give thanks for life each day, but on this weekend, there is a special thanksgiving and I look forward to celebrating with all of my family, friends, and

everyone who has prayed and supported me over the years," said the Grammy Award winner in a statement.

Due to "popular demand," a second date has been added to the "Long Walk To Freedom New York" concert at the UBS Arena in Queens, New York.

"With the first show selling out in record time, the addition of the second show ensures that more fans and music lovers will have the opportunity to witness the legendary artist's comeback," a release to DancehallMag stated. "Long Walk To Freedom - N.Y. exemplifies Banton's resilience and serves as a beacon of hope for fans around the world."

Joseph Budafuco, Buju Banton's manager, reflected on the journey since his last U.S. show in Miami in January 2011. "It's a true honour to witness the return of a legend, as history unfolds before our eyes once again," Budafuco expressed.

He added, "We look forward to presenting an exceptional concert in partnership with AG Consulting and Dahved Levy, whose experience in the market is profound."

- NewsAmericasnow.com



Caribbean Born Rapper Says Her Lawyer And God Will Handle Case, Following Arrest

Caribbean born, Grammy-winning rapper Nicki Minaj says God and her lawyers will deal with the case, following her arrest in Amsterdam on May 25th, allegedly for having pre-rolled weed.

Authorities at Amsterdam airport detained Minaj, whose legal name is Onika Tanya Maraj-Petty, according to her Instagram Live video.

"After sitting in a jail cell for 5-6 hours, my plane still didn't take off for another 20 mins once I boarded," Minaj said, after missing her Manchester, England, concert as part of her Pink Friday 2 World Tour.

Minaj shared her frustration, stating: "So they succeeded at their plan to not let me get on that stage tonight. I succeeded in getting to the root of it all by recording them & posting everything in real time. I have so much video evidence. You wouldn't believe it if I told you. I'll have the lawyers & GOD take it from here tho."

The Manchester venue, Co-op Live, confirmed the cancellation and expressed disappointment.

In her Instagram Live, Minaj recorded her detainment, with a Dutch official stating she was being arrested for "carrying drugs." The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee later released a statement, confirming the arrest of a 41-year-old American woman on suspicion of exporting



Caribbean rapper Nicki Minaj (X image)

soft drugs. After a fine, she was allowed to continue her journey.

Minaj initially refused to get into the police vehicle without a lawyer present, but eventually complied. She expressed concern about the delay affecting her show in Manchester. Minaj claimed the pre-rolls found belonged to her security and criticized the handling of her luggage.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



- Rewritten from Dacemhallmag.com



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



www.caribbeantoday.com

From Unknown To Sensation: Jamaican Singer Nigy Boy Shines With Hit Song, Assembly Ovation, And Dual Degrees

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

What a difference a year makes. Largely unknown in 2023, Jamaican immigrant singer Nigy Boy, born Nigel Hector, hit it big this year with a catchy song, a standing ovation from the New York State Assembly and dual degrees from Stony Brook University.

Nigy Boy, who is visually impaired, struck a chord with dancehall fans with 'Continent,' a song produced by Rvssian, one of that genre's most prolific hit makers.

Continent has been a hit in dancehall and pop circles, winning him shows in the United States, The Bahamas and Guyana. Nigy Boy is also booked for Reggae Sumfest in his hometown Montego Bay in July.

'Continent,' is recorded on the Dutty Money, a 'riddim' that first came to prominence in 2010 with My Money (Ha Ha), a song by Merital Family and their mentor, Vybz Kartel.

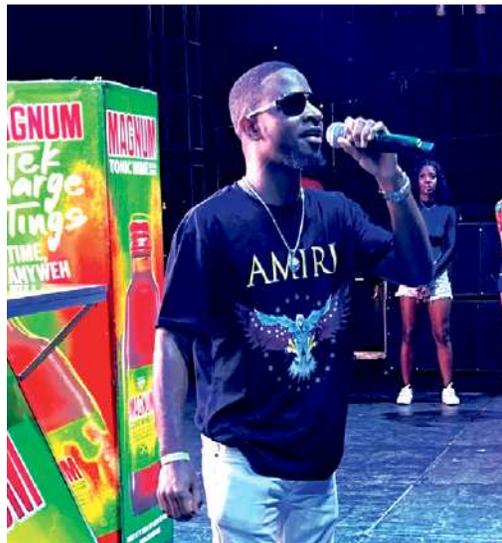
That beat was revamped with an Afrobeats flavor by the South Florida-based Rvssian, who has

had major success with dancehall acts such as Vybz Kartel. His production on Continent helped drive it up the charts in Jamaica, as well as major Diaspora markets including the tri-state area and South Florida.

On May 16th, Nigy Boy was awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and history from Stony Brook University. Two weeks earlier, Nigy Boy was lauded in the New York State Assembly where his achievements were outlined by his mentor, Alicia Hyndman, a Democrat who represents the 29th District.

In an interview with Caribbean Today, he credited his approach to life for his academic and musical success.

"I'm a positive person. I learn in the present and believe in the future. I have made a personal commitment to do the



Nigy Boy performing in Guyana in February 2024. (NewsAmericasnow.com image)

best that I possibly can. I'm becoming more conscious as I grow and I believe in positive thinking. It works," said Nigy Boy.

Nigy Boy visited Jamaica in February. He was surrounded by fans and music industry insiders in Montego Bay and Kingston, where he made stops to promote Continent.

Among the people he met with was Josef Bogdanovich,

head of Reggae Sumfest. With dancehall music consistently tied to anti-social behaviour, he believes Nigy Boy's triumphs are a welcome change.

"Nigy Boy's academic achievement must be applauded. It sets a good example that with focus and hard work everything is possible. This achievement hopefully will get through to the youth, (that) no matter what background, they have been blessed since birth. Education provides opportunity, and Nigy Boy was quick to grasp that," the

American promoter noted.

During his two-day trip to Jamaica, Nigy Boy made a stop at the Salvation Army School For The Blind in Montego Bay where he was once a student.

"Working with the blind community in Jamaica is very important. Being able to see how blind and visually-impaired individuals function in their daily lives is guaranteed to open up the country to new ideas and greater advancements," he said.



Steel Pulse Turns 50 Next Year

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

British reggae band Steel Pulse celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2025 and plans are being put in place to mark the milestone with a tour and box set of songs. David Hinds, the sole original member, rhythm guitarist and lead singer, said details of the golden anniversary will be disclosed in due time but Steel Pulse is currently touring the United States.

"A (box set) will be a proper package for the fans as a token. Hopefully, we'll have some new songs on it," said the 68-year-old Hinds, who was born in Handsworth, Birmingham in the British Midlands to Jamaican parents.

Handsworth, which has large Jamaican and West Indian communities, was also where Steel Pulse formed in 1975. At the time, the punk rock movement was in full cry throughout the United Kingdom and there was widespread racial turmoil between the police and black youth.

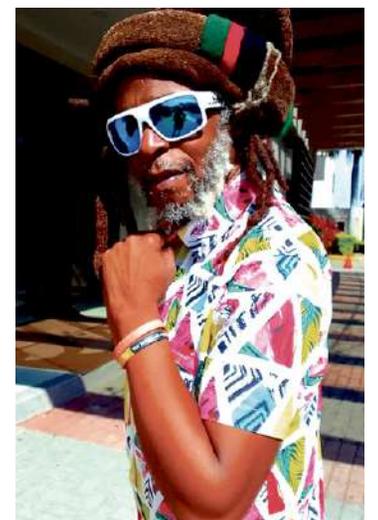
That animus triggered the rise of British reggae with bands like Steel Pulse, Aswad and Misty In Roots, and the fiery dub poet, Linton Kwesi Johnson.

Discrimination against minorities in the UK inspired Handsworth Revolution, Steel Pulse's outstanding 1978 debut album which was distributed by Island Records, the company which Bob Marley and The Wailers were signed to. Steel Pulse was opening act for Marley on some shows on his 1978 European tour.

Four years later, saw the release of their 'True Democracy,' regarded as one of the great reggae albums. It contains songs like 'Worth His Weight in Gold (Rally Round),' 'Raid Blues Dance,' 'Chant A Psalm and Your House.'

In 1987, Steel Pulse won the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album with 'Babylon The Bandit.'

Hinds is the band's chief songwriter. Keyboardist/vocalist



David Hinds, the sole original member, rhythm guitarist and lead singer, of Steel Pulse. (Contributed image)

Selwyn Brown is also a survivor from Steel Pulse's classic period of the 1970s and 1980s, when they were also associated with Elektra Records, the major label that distributed 'True Democracy' and 'Babylon The Bandit.'

Steel Pulse maintains a hectic touring schedule, performing in strongholds like Europe and the United States West Coast.

"I prefer recording more than touring, but going on the road is still the best way to meet the fans," said Hinds.

The band's other current members are:
Selwyn Brown – keyboards, backing vocals (1975–present)
Sidney Mills – keyboards, backing vocals (1988–present)
Wayne C# Clarke – drums (2005–present)
Amlak Tafari – bass (2005–present)
David Ellecirri Jr. - lead guitar (2012–present)
Stephen Bradley – trumpet (2017–present)
Zem Audu – saxophone (2017–present)
Baruch Hinds – rap and backing vocals (2017–present).

The band will play Rise up Maryland this June 21st. For more concert dates in the US see steelpulse.com.



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Four Unique Caribbean Recipes To Try This Caribbean American Heritage Month

It's Caribbean American Heritage Month and there is no denying that it's the food and culture of the region that most stands out anywhere, including across the US. Here are four unique Caribbean recipes to try this month, one for each week. Enjoy and bon appetite.

Trinbagonian-Style Salt Fish With Tomatoes



INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb boneless salted cod fillets (bacalao)
- ½ bunch fresh Italian parsley
- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 large green bell pepper
- 1 large yellow onion
- 2 large, ripe tomatoes
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cups water
- ½ cup sherry (or dry white wine)
- 1 cup sliced, stuffed green olives
- 1 bay leaf

METHOD

Soak and rinse cod fillets by placing in bowl and covering with water for 2 hours (or chill overnight). Change water several times to remove excess salt.

Chop parsley and garlic finely. Chop bell pepper, onion, and tomatoes (2 cups each); cut fish into large pieces (wash hands).

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high 2–3 minutes. Place

oil in pan, then add fish; cook and stir 3–4 minutes until fish is tender and begins to brown slightly. Add parsley, garlic, peppers, and onions; cook and stir 2–3 minutes until vegetables are tender.

Stir in remaining ingredients. Reduce heat to medium and cover; cook 5–8 more minutes, stirring occasionally, until liquid reduces by one-half and fish is 145°F. Remove pan from heat; remove bay leaf and serve. Note: Always check fish for bones.

Conch Fritters With A Dipping Sauce



INGREDIENTS

- 1 quart oil for frying
- 1/2 Scotch bonnet pepper
- 1/2 cup Spanish onion, chopped
- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 1 lb ground conch
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- 3 tbsp chopped parsley
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 tsp salt

METHOD

Heat the oil in a large pot or deep fryer to 350°F.

To the bowl of a food processor, add all peppers, garlic,

onions, and celery; pulse quickly 10–15 times.

Transfer to a large mixing bowl.

Add conch, thyme, and parsley to bowl; combine well.

In a separate small bowl, combine milk and eggs.

Add milk-egg mixture to conch mixture, combine well.

Combine flour, baking powder, and salt separately (dry mix).

Fold the dry mix into the conch mixture to form the batter.

Using a tablespoon, drop the batter into the hot oil and fry until golden brown.

For Dipping Sauce, combine

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 1/2 tbsp lime juice
- 1 1/2 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp hot sauce
- 1 tsp lemon pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Banana Fritters With Chocolate Rum Sauce



INGREDIENTS

- 2 ripe bananas
- 2 tbsp milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tbsp white sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- Oil, for frying

Chocolate Rum Sauce

- 8 oz semi-sweet chocolate, chips or chopped
- 4 oz evaporated milk, heated
- 1/2 tbsp dark rum (or more)

INSTRUCTIONS

For Fritters

1. In a large bowl, mash the bananas.
 2. Mix in milk, eggs, and butter until smooth.
 3. Add flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon into the banana mixture.
 4. Fold in all ingredients.
 5. Heat oil to 350°F. Drop a spoonful of batter into hot oil and cook until brown, about 3–8 minutes.
 6. Drain fritters on a paper towel and serve with chocolate rum sauce (drizzle or dip).
- For Chocolate Rum Sauce
7. Heat milk in the microwave; do not boil.
 8. Pour in chocolate and stir until chocolate is completely melted.
 9. Stir in the rum.

- Publix Apron

Camarofongo or Shrimp Mofongo



INGREDIENTS

- Plantains
- 4 unripe plantains, peeled
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup olive oil
- 8 garlic cloves, mashed

Shrimp

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 4 plum tomatoes cut into cubes or 1 doz cherry tomatoes halved
- 2 bell peppers, cut into small pieces
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 cup of tomato sauce
- ½ cup of water
- 2 lb [0.9 kg] of shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ½ teaspoon of pepper, (or more, to taste)
- 1 ½ teaspoon of salt, (or more, to taste)

METHOD

Wrap the plantains: Cut 4 pieces of aluminium foil big enough to wrap a plantain in each.

Place each plantain on a piece of aluminium foil and wrap tightly. Roast the plantains: Cook in preheated oven at 350 °F [175 °C] oven for 1 hour.

Remove one from the oven, cut in the middle and make sure it is cooked through. If it isn't, wrap again and cook for 15 more minutes.

Remove from the oven and cool for 5 minutes.

Cook garlic: In a pan heat olive oil over very low heat. Stir in garlic and sprinkle with salt.

Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, and making sure the heat is low enough that the garlic does not burn or change to a dark colour. Set aside.

Make plantain balls: Unwrap the plantains.

Mash one by one in a mortar and pestle, adding to each plantain ¼ of the oil and garlic.

Form each plantain into a ball, or scoop into a bowl and make a hole in the centre (see picture), and serve with the shrimp.

- Dominican Cooking.com.



From Trinidad to Stockholm - A Caribbean Immigrant With 2,000 Rum Brands Under One Roof

Duane Shepherd's entrepreneurial journey spans from Trinidad & Tobago to Miami, London, and now Stockholm. Starting at age 16 as a restaurateur, Shepherd's passion for Caribbean cuisine and culture propelled him across continents.

After formal training in Miami and London where he worked as a consultant,

Shepherd, moved to Sweden with his Swedish wife and kids, and recognized an opportunity to introduce Caribbean flavors to Stockholm.

This vision gave birth to the Cane Rum Society in 2020, located at Ninni Kronbergs Gata, 171 64, Hagastaden, Sweden. Driven by his love for rum, food, music, and Caribbean culture, Shepherd and his business

partner have curated the largest rum collection in Sweden, boasting an impressive 2,000 brands under one roof.

His "R(h)um" bar and restaurant, has so far earned consecutive nominations as the best specialty bar in Sweden for 2022 and 2023. Led by bar manager Dominic Williams, the bar offers a batch cocktail program, ensuring consistency in

flavor with every visit.

Patrons can also savour authentic Caribbean dishes such as Jerk Pork Belly, Escovitch Fish, Curry Goat, and more, providing a taste of the islands in Stockholm. Every Saturday, the Cane and Rum Society hosts the lively 'Soca Brunch,' inviting guests to indulge in Caribbean rhythms and flavours.

Don't miss more on

Shepherd's inspiring journey on the #HardtoBeat podcast with Felicia J. Persaud, available on Spotify, Apple, Amazon Music Radio Public, Sticher and Pocketcast.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HEALTH NEWS



Florida Becomes First State To Allow C-Sections Outside Hospitals Amid Safety Concerns

Florida has become the first state to permit doctors to perform cesarean sections outside of hospitals, siding with a private equity-owned physicians group that claims the change will reduce costs and provide a more comfortable birthing environment.

However, the hospital industry and the nation's leading obstetricians' association express concerns. They argue that despite some Florida hospitals closing their maternity wards in recent years, performing C-sections in doctor-run clinics will elevate risks for women and babies during complications.

"A pregnant patient considered low-risk at one moment can suddenly need lifesaving care," Cole Greves, an Orlando perinatologist who chairs the Florida chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists told NBC News. "The new birth clinics, even with increased

regulation, cannot guarantee the level of safety patients would receive within a hospital."

The Florida Legislature recently passed a law allowing "advanced birth centers," where physicians can deliver babies vaginally or by C-section to women deemed at low risk of complications. Women can stay overnight at these clinics.

Women's Care Enterprises, a private equity-owned physicians group with locations mostly in Florida, along with California and Kentucky, lobbied the state legislature for this change. BC Partners, a London-based investment firm, acquired Women's Care in 2020.

"We have patients who don't want to deliver in a hospital, and that breaks our heart," said Stephen Snow, a recently retired OB-GYN with Women's Care who testified before the Florida Legislature advocating for the change in 2018.

Brittany Miller, vice

president of strategic initiatives with Women's Care, declined to comment on the issue.

Health experts remain skeptical.

"This looks like a poor substitute for quality obstetrical care, effectively billed as offering more choices," Alice Abernathy, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine was quoted as saying. "This feels like a bad band-aid on a chronic issue that will worsen outcomes rather than improve them."

Nearly one-third of U.S. births occur via C-section, a surgical procedure where a baby is delivered through an incision in the mother's abdomen and uterus. Doctors typically opt for

this method when it is deemed safer than vaginal delivery for the mother, baby, or both. This decision can be made months in advance or in an emergency.

Florida state Senator Gayle Harrell, the Republican who sponsored the birth center bill, compared the change to the introduction of outpatient surgery centers in the late 1980s. Harrell, who managed her husband's OB-GYN practice, stated that birth centers will have to meet the same high standards for staffing, infection control, and other aspects as those at outpatient surgery centers.

"Given our current needs and the maternity deserts across the state, this will help moms receive the best care," she said.

Seventeen hospitals in the

state have closed their maternity units since 2019, citing low insurance reimbursement and high malpractice costs, according to the Florida Hospital Association.

Mary Mayhew, CEO of the Florida Hospital Association, said it is incorrect to compare birth centers to ambulatory surgery centers due to the significant risks associated with C-sections, such as hemorrhaging.

The Florida law mandates advanced birth centers to have a transfer agreement with a hospital, but it does not specify where these facilities can open or their proximity to a hospital.

- *Rewritten to NBC news*



June Is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, and the Alzheimer's Association is actively raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease and brain health. This month presents an excellent opportunity to don purple, share personal stories, and learn about lifestyle habits that may help reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

Currently, some 7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's. Seventy-three percent are age 75 or older while about 1 in 9 people age 65 and older (10.9%) has Alzheimer's.

Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women while older Black Americans are about twice as likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementias as older Whites. Older Hispanics are about one and one-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementias as older Whites.

While age remains the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's, it is not the only one. Although some brain



Wayne Brady dons purple to support bringing awareness to the Alzheimer's movement. (alz.org image)

changes are inevitable with aging, research indicates that adopting healthy lifestyle behaviors can support healthier brain aging.

During June, the Alzheimer's Association recommends five tips to promote better brain health and reduce the risk of cognitive decline:

Exercise Regularly: Regular cardiovascular exercise boosts blood flow to the body and brain. Strong evidence links physical activity to improved memory and thinking.

Maintain a Heart-Healthy Diet: Following a diet rich in

fruits and vegetables can enhance cognitive performance. The Mediterranean and DASH diets, which focus on whole grains, green leafy vegetables, fish, and berries, are associated with better cognitive function and reduced risk of heart disease.

Get Proper Sleep: Consistent, uninterrupted sleep is crucial for physical and psychological health, aiding in waste clearance from the brain. Adults should aim for at least seven hours of sleep each night and maintain a regular bedtime.

Stay Socially and Mentally Active: Meaningful social interactions support cognitive health. Stay connected with friends and family, and engage in activities that challenge your mind, such as puzzles or strategy games. Further, challenge yourself by learning a new language or musical instrument.

This Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, embrace these practices to support brain health and reduce the risk of cognitive decline.



Guyana Invites Public Feedback On Revised Sexual Offences Act

The Guyana government is inviting public comments on draft amendments to the Sexual Offences Act 2010, developed as part of the Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB)-funded Support for the Criminal Justice System, (SCJS) project.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs announced that a consultant was engaged to review the current sexual offences legislative framework in Guyana, including the Sexual Offences Act 2010, and to conduct a legal gap analysis. The consultant's task was to prepare a revised Sexual Offences Act for implementation.

During this process, the consultant consulted key stakeholders and individuals, including Supreme Court judges, magistrates, the Director of Public Prosecutions, members of the Guyana Police Force, legal

professionals, childcare officers, and individuals with pending court matters, both victims and offenders.

With the consultant's work now complete, the government is seeking recommendations, proposals, and comments from the public on the draft legislation. Among its provisions, the draft legislation proposes the establishment of a "National Sex Offender Database," to be maintained by the Commissioner of Police.

The draft legislation specifies that a registered sex offender who fails to inform a designated officer of any changes in their provided information could face a fine of 500,000 Guyanese dollars (US\$2,000) and imprisonment for one year. Additionally, failure to report to the nearest police station within 48 hours

of release, discharge, or re-entry could result in a similar fine and imprisonment.

Furthermore, registered sex offenders residing in Guyana must report to the nearest police station at least seven days before traveling overseas. They must provide details of their intended departure date, the countries they plan to visit, any transit countries, addresses of intended stays, and the duration of their stay in each country.

The government encourages all citizens to participate in this crucial process by providing their input on the proposed amendments to enhance the effectiveness of Guyana's sexual offences legislation.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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

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

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

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

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

8 Unforgettable Caribbean Beaches To Visit This Summer

The Caribbean is renowned worldwide for its stunning beaches, each offering a unique blend of sparkling sands and crystal-clear waters. As we count down to summer, here are some of the best Caribbean beaches that promise unforgettable experiences, pristine beauty, and serene atmospheres.

Grace Bay Beach, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

Frequently topping lists of the world's best beaches, Grace Bay is the crown jewel of Providenciales. The beach stretches over three miles with powdery white sand and vibrant, turquoise waters. Its coral reef system is teeming with colourful marine life, making it a paradise for snorkelers and divers.

Varadero Beach, Cuba

With its 20 kilometers of uninterrupted white sand, Varadero Beach is not only one of the largest resorts in the



Grace Bay Beach, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos continue to make waves as the best Caribbean beach globally. (TCI tourism image)

Caribbean but also one of its most beautiful. The beach is a popular destination for both relaxation and water sports, surrounded by a rich history and vibrant culture.

Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman

Despite its name, Seven Mile Beach is actually a little over six miles long. This glorious stretch of golden sand and calm, clear waters is perfect

for swimming and snorkeling. It's lined with luxurious resorts and offers plenty of water sports facilities.

Shoal Bay, Anguilla

Shoal Bay in Anguilla stretches over two miles of fine, white sand and offers some of the best snorkelling in the Caribbean with its clear, calm waters. The beach is famous for its mesmerizing underwater scenes and vibrant coral reefs.

Trunk Bay, St. John, US Virgin Islands

Trunk Bay is not only known for its breathtaking beauty but also for its underwater snorkeling trail. The beach features powdery sand and clear, blue waters, along with amenities like snack bars, lifeguards, and rental equipment, making it an ideal spot for families.

Eagle Beach, Aruba

Eagle Beach is celebrated for its broad and expansive white sand shorelines, which are free of the crowds that frequent more commercial beaches. It's particularly famous for its picturesque Fofoti trees, often captured in sunset photographs.

Pink Sands Beach, Harbour Island, Bahamas

This beach is unique for its pale pink sands, a result of crushed coral mixed with sand. Spanning three miles along the east coast of Harbour Island, it is less

crowded and offers a tranquil retreat with clear, shallow waters ideal for swimming.

Palm Beach, Aruba

Known for its soft sands and calm waters, Palm Beach is a hub for tourists seeking a blend of relaxation and adventure. The beach is lined with high-rise hotels, shops, and restaurants, providing all the conveniences for a perfect vacation.

These beaches not only showcase the best of the Caribbean's natural beauty but also reflect the spirit of their respective islands – tranquil, welcoming, and vibrant. Whether you're seeking solitude, adventure, or just a place to unwind, these beaches offer a slice of paradise that continues to attract beach lovers from around the globe.

- NewsAmericasNow



Tourism Continues To Be Major Driver For The Region - CHTA President

BY CONNIE AITCHESON
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Tourism continues to be the Caribbean region's main economic driver. That's the word from Nicola Madden-Greig, President of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). Madden-Greig made the assessment at the just concluded 42nd Caribbean Travel Marketplace, held recently at the Montego Bay Convention Center in Montego Bay, Jamaica from May 20th to May 23rd. Before approximately 1,000 delegates, 150 companies, 50 international journalists and several regional tourism ministers - the largest ever CHTA, Madden-Greig cited the increased contribution of tourism to the countries of the region's Gross Domestic Product, (GDP), and strong employment figures from the sector.

She also revealed for the first time, the CHTA Caribbean Construction & Pipeline Report, noting that there is overwhelming demand for new hotels and other tourism projects across the Caribbean.

Over the next three to five years, the CHTA president said construction will begin on 46 new hotels - equalling 18,135 rooms and nine infrastructure projects.

"This is the kind of count that we're looking on in terms of in construction, final planning or planning," said Madden-Greig. "We have to have that top level sight of what's happening across the region, and not just focus on our destination. Because when we go the airline partners, when we go to the tour operators, when we go even to a designer, or we're trying to source material from whatever source market to build, we may find that we're short because we don't understand the

planning parameters for the entire region."

The main tourism market for the Caribbean is the US, Canada and the United Kingdom. In particular the US, "represents over 60% of the arrivals into the Caribbean," said Madden-Greig. Among the four US top cities are: Charlotte, Dallas, Miami and Atlanta.

Government officials at the events were also cognizant of the importance their Diaspora communities play in the tourist market. Colin James, the Chief Executive Officer at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, said the Diaspora community is "very, very important."

"The tri-state area, New York in particular, and Miami, are the largest Caribbean Diaspora in the USA," he said. "So we really work with our consulates in those markets, to market to our own Diaspora, but also to the Caribbean Diaspora in general... It's important for us because having an opportunity to share some of our Diaspora numbers really tips the scale in our favour."

Madden-Greig also encouraged those abroad to not only visit their homeland but seek ways to get involved in tourism.

"The Diaspora is a big, big market that supports the Caribbean and supports Jamaica," she said. "We continue to see growth there and we're very excited for that. We continue to market to the Diaspora because we think they are a voice for us. So having the Diaspora on the same page and understanding what's happening in tourism is important."

Madden-Greig added: "I would say to persons in the Diaspora, I'm saying to persons



CHTA President Nicola Madden-Greig speaking at the just concluded 42nd Caribbean Travel Marketplace in Jamaica. (CHTA image)

here in Jamaica and in the Caribbean, see what you can invest in the industry because as I said, there's a great opportunity not only to come as a visitor but to be an investor here and in tourism."

The four-day conference touched on many aspects of the tourism sector, among them: integrating tourism

development, sustainability, multi-destination travel, community involvement, pension plans for workers, updating and inputting technology, supporting services, housing, sustainability, policy directives, private sector investments and transportation. The 33-member organization is also expanding its reach. This year, the group had an inaugural Caribbean MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Exchange to tap into that market.

The Montego Bay Convention Center was also home to the Caribbean Travel Marketplace that allowed stakeholders from across the region to place booths and allow for scheduled 20-minute appointments. Representatives from big and small hoteliers, car rentals, tourism ministries and authorities and several air line carriers, beauty and wellness companies, tour groups and many more were able to showcase their products.

On "Responsible Tourism

Day," Thursday, May 23rd, which was also Labour Day in Jamaica, a national holiday, participants volunteered by helping to revitalize the SOS Children's Villages in Barrett Town through painting and carpentry repairs, while others participated in a beach cleanup at the Montego Bay Marine Park picking up plastic and glass bottles and other debris laying around.

The organization also bestowed several awards to destinations and individuals. The Bahamas received the Caribbean Destination Resilience Award, for destinations with over 500,000 annual stop-over visitors. The runner ups in the category were Aruba and Puerto Rico.

In the small destination category, St. Lucia received the award in the Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Award, ahead of Bonaire and St. Marteen. Meanwhile, Patricia Alfonso-Dass was named the 2024 CHTA Caribbean Hotelier of the Year award.



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SCAN ME

FEATURE



Prepare For An Active 2024 Hurricane Season: Essential Tips And Updates

As the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season approaches, NOAA National Weather Service forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center predict above-normal hurricane activity. With an 85% chance of an above-normal season, NOAA expects 17 to 25 named storms, of which 8 to 13 could become hurricanes, including 4 to 7 major hurricanes. Factors contributing to this include near-record warm Atlantic temperatures, La Niña conditions, reduced Atlantic trade winds, and decreased wind shear. Here are some tips to help you prepare:

1. Review and Update Your Insurance Policy

Contact your agent to review coverages, deductibles, and mortgage information.

Ensure your insurance company has your correct contact information.

Secure flood insurance if needed. Remember, the hurricane deductible can only be changed at renewal.

Add your insurance portal link and agent's contact information to your phone.

2. Know Your Home, Know Your Zone

Visit FloridaDisaster.org/ Know to learn your evacuation zone and your home's ability to withstand hurricane-force winds.

3. Utilities

Know how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity.

Keep necessary tools near shut-off valves and turn off utilities if lines are damaged or as instructed by officials.

4. Safety Devices

Know the locations of fire extinguishers and how to use them.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them regularly.

5. Important Records & Documents

Store copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance records, etc.) in a safe location.

6. First Aid/CPR & AED

Take first aid and CPR/AED classes through the American Red Cross, which offers accommodations for disabilities.

7. Inventory Home Possessions

Document your possessions in writing or video to assist with insurance claims.

8. Reduce Home Hazards

Repair electrical wiring and gas connections.

Secure heavy objects on lower shelves and away from beds.

Repair cracks in ceilings and foundations, and reinforce garage doors and soffits.

9. Medication Requirements

Ensure you have a two-week supply of prescription medications, keeping them current and not expired.

10. Special Needs Registry

Register with the Florida Department of Health for assistance during a disaster if you have special needs.

11. Hurricane Kits

Prepare a kit with non-perishable food, water, first-aid supplies, hygiene items, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, cash, important documents, and other essentials.

12. Secure Your Home

Cover windows with shutters or wood.

Secure your roof and trim trees and shrubs.

Bring in outdoor furniture and secure internal doors.

Power Outages

Fill your gas tank in advance. Have extra cash as ATMs may not work.

Charge your cell phone and use it sparingly.

Keep your home cool by covering windows and using fans efficiently.

Store water for washing and flushing.

Turn your fridge temperature down and have a cooler ready. Remember, severe storms can be destructive. Prepare ahead, listen to officials, secure your home, and stay safe during the hurricane season.



CT Editor And Caribbean American Entrepreneur Among Nominees For Caribbean POSH ICON WOMAN Award

Felicia J. Persaud, the Guyana-born editor of The Caribbean Today as well as a Caribbean American entrepreneur and advocate, is among the inaugural honourees of the Caribbean POSH ICON WOMAN Awards.

Persaud, the founder of CaribPR Wire, Invest Caribbean, News Americas and Hard Beat Communications, is one of only four Guyanese nominated for this year's awards and the only one in the category of Entrepreneurship and Business Excellence.

The Inaugural Caribbean Posh Icon Awards, founded by Caribbean Posh Magazine, is a new yet significant part of the Caribbean Posh Weekend Event and is designed to celebrate and empower Caribbean women.

"Our aim is to build a space that amplifies the way Caribbean women are celebrated and recognized for their achievements," commented founder Janette Brin.

"It's truly an honour to be among the many amazing Caribbean women who have made the list of top nominees for the inaugural, Caribbean POSH ICON WOMAN Awards, set for Caribbean American Heritage Month in the U.S. Virgin Islands as part of the Caribbean Posh Weekend," said Persaud. "Being recognized by your own community and especially fellow Caribbean women entrepreneurs as amazing as Janette, makes it incredibly more special.

To vote for Persaud Click on <https://us2.list-manage.com/survey?u=f5e5b5e52b3196475677de-9ae&id=a40ac0a70a&attribution=false> and scroll down to the Entrepreneurship and Business Excellence section.

Persaud is also an award-winning Caribbean immigrant journalist, news editor, columnist and advocate, renowned for her impactful contributions across multiple industries. A staunch advocate for the Caribbean Diaspora, she spearheaded the Carib ID movement in 2008, leading the charge to ensure Caribbean nationals were able to count in the US Census. Her relentless advocacy over 12 years resulted in Caribbean nationals and immigrants being able to register their ancestry on the 2020 census forms. She continues



Felicia J. Persaud is among the inaugural honourees of the Caribbean POSH ICON WOMAN Awards.

her passionate advocacy for immigration reform, contributing a weekly column to the historic Amsterdam News.

Her expertise on the Caribbean has led to esteemed recognition through interviews on major media platforms such as AP, CNN, BBC, and The New York Times, alongside a listing in the US State Department Speakers Database as an expert on the Caribbean.

The Caribbean Posh Weekend is one of the most empowering event for Caribbean and Caribbean American women that has been held since 2017 in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. This year's weekend is set for June 28-30, 2024.

This highly anticipated event will bring together women in business from across the region to foster sisterhood, collaboration, and celebration. The Caribbean Posh Icon Woman Awards will also honour the esteemed Dr. Yvette Noel-Schure of Schure Media Group, as the inaugural award recipient of the Pioneering ICON.

In addition to the Icon Woman Awards, Caribbean Posh Weekend features many other exciting highlights. The event offers vendor and partnership opportunities, allowing businesses and organizations to showcase their products and services to a diverse audience. This is a chance for entrepreneurs to connect with potential customers and collaborators, expanding their reach within the Caribbean community. See more at caribbeanposh.com/wkd.



On August 6, 2024, the island of Jamaica marks the 62nd 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 62

to be published in July 2024, 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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It's ICC Cricket Time At Broward Stadium

Its cricket time in South Florida! The countdown is on the ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Cricket competition with Broward County, Florida set to take center stage. Four matches will be played at Central Broward Park and Broward County Stadium this month, between **June 11th and June 16th**.

MATCH DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday, June 11: Sri Lanka vs. Nepal, match starts at 7:30 PM

Friday, June 14: USA vs. Ireland, match starts at 10:30 AM

Saturday, June 15: India vs. Canada; match starts at 10:30 AM

Sunday, June 16: Pakistan vs. Ireland; match starts at 10:30 AM

HOW TO GET TICKETS

If you are still looking for tickets, check tickets.t20worldcup.com/now. Tickets start as low as US \$60 per person for the US versus Ireland

match. For the Sri Lanka versus Nepal match, tickets start at US \$60 each. For the hot India versus Canada match, get ready to pay a minimum of US \$90 per ticket while for Pakistan versus Ireland, tickets start at US \$80.

Note that The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is a digitally ticketed event, and your tickets can be accessed using the official 'T20WC Tickets' app, available on the App Store and Google Play.

Here's how to access your tickets after downloading the app:

- Register your details in the app
- Download your ticket(s) ahead of the match
- Scan your ticket (s) to enter the venue.

If you have purchased tickets for family members or friends, you can easily transfer them through the app. Simply ensure that each member of your group has the app downloaded and their details registered to receive the transferred tickets.



Broward Commissioner Hazelle Rogers with Team USA Aaron Jones on Fort Lauderdale Beach 13 weeks ago, ahead of the ICC matches. (Image: Broward Commission/IG image)

For any assistance, contact tickets@t20worldcup.com.

PARKING

Convenient onsite parking is available at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium, with ample spaces accessible from West Bound, East Sunrise Blvd. Parking opens two hours before the first ball on match days. Arrive early to park and explore the stadium before the event begins.

GETTING TO THE GROUND

There is no public transport to the stadium. General ticket holders are encouraged to use the nearby parking options or ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft. Ride-sharing drop-off is at Lauderhill Performing Arts Center (3800 NW 11th Pl, Lauderhill, FL 33311).

ACCESS AND PARKING

General Access: From North Bound, Road 441, turn right into 11th Pl, Lauderhill, FL 33311.

Parking: Access from West Bound, East Sunrise Blvd. General Parking is \$40 + tax. Ride Share: Use the app and specify the stadium as your destination.

Train

If travelling from Miami, Aventura, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, or Orlando, take the train to Brightline Fort Lauderdale Station, less than 5 miles from the stadium. Groups of 4+ save 25% on SMART fares.

ENTRY TIMES

Gates open two hours before the first ball of all matches at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium:

Morning Matches: Gates open at 8:30 am (EST), first ball at 10:30 am (EST).

Evening Matches: Gates open at 5:30 pm (EST), first ball at 7:30 pm (EST).

Arrive early to avoid queues and enjoy pre-match entertainment.

TICKET RESOLUTION

For ticket-related inquiries, visit the ticket resolution office at the Main Gate entry for assistance.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The stadium offers a variety of food and beverage options, including snacks, meals, and drinks. Alcoholic beverages are available at selected points. Note that outside food and drinks are not allowed inside the stadium.



West Indies Soar To Fourth In ICC Rankings Ahead Of World Cup

West Indies received a significant boost in the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings ahead of the T20 World Cup, climbing to fourth place following a dominant T20I series sweep over South Africa.

Co-hosting the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, West Indies faced South Africa at home and secured a 3-0 series win, propelling them to 254 rating points. Despite missing some key players, the West Indies showcased their depth and talent, securing their position among the top teams.

The current ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings are led by India with 264 rating points,



West Indies aim for another T20 World Cup triumph after climbing the ranks. (ICC image)

followed by Australia with 257 points, and defending champions England also

with 254 points but ahead on decimal points. The West Indies, champions of the 2012 and 2016 editions, are now eyeing a record third title during their home World Cup.

Placed in Group C, the West Indies will compete against Afghanistan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Uganda. Their campaign kicks off against Papua New Guinea in Guyana on June 2. These rankings and recent performances set a promising stage for the Men in Maroon as they aim for another T20 World Cup triumph.



West Indies Secure Scrappy Win Over Papua New Guinea in T20 World Cup Opener

West Indies captain Rovman Powell admitted his team was not at their best despite a scrappy five-wicket win over Papua New Guinea in their Group C opener of the Twenty20 World Cup on June 2nd.

Chasing a modest 137 at the Guyana National Stadium, the hosts stumbled to 97 for five by the end of the 16th over. However, all-rounder Roston Chase's unbeaten 42 guided them to victory with an over to spare.

Fielding first, West Indies had Papua New Guinea at 34

for three by the end of the sixth over. Sese Bau's resilient 50 off 43 balls set a competitive target for West Indies to chase.

"I think we can be better in all three departments," Powell said post-match. "We're 60-70% there but need to refine what we did well and correct what we didn't for the second game."

West Indies maintained early control, restricting Papua New Guinea to 57 for four at the halfway stage. Bau's partnership with Charles Amini and Kiplin Doriga's late 27 not out boosted their total.

"It's a bit too much, and our bowling group needs to tighten up," Powell remarked. "Credit to PNG for playing smartly under pressure."

Powell praised Chase, who hit four fours and two sixes in his 27-ball innings. "His composure under pressure in a World Cup game was very pleasing for us," Powell noted.

West Indies will face Uganda in their second game next Saturday at the same venue.



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SPORT NEWS



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York City Signs Antigua & Barbuda International For 2024-25 Season

English National League club York City has announced the signing of Antigua & Barbuda international Ashley Nathaniel-George for the 2024-25 season. The 28-year-old winger joins the Minstermen following the expiration of his contract with Maidenhead United, where he spent the last two years.

Nathaniel-George, born in England, began his youth career at Arsenal, Watford, Wycombe, and Wealdstone before moving to Potters Bar Town. After a

standout season at Hendon, he joined English League 2 side Crawley Town, where he played from 2018 to 2020. He then had spells at Southend in League Two and Torquay before signing with Maidenhead in September 2022. Last year, he was awarded Maidenhead's Supporters Player of the Year.

Internationally, Nathaniel-George has been capped 11 times for Antigua & Barbuda, scoring once. York City supporters will remember



Antigua & Barbuda international Ashley Nathaniel-George has been signed by English National League club York City. (CMC image)

his impressive performances against the Minstermen last

season, where he scored in both matches, each ending in a 1-1

draw.

In addition to Nathaniel-George, York City has also signed goalkeeper Harrison Male from Dorking and Worthing duo Ollie Pearce and Joe Felix, all on free transfers following the expiration of their contracts.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Caribbean Big Names Fail To Shine As Brightly At World Athletics Diamond League

The big names in Caribbean athletics, including Yohan Blake and Shericka Jackson, failed to shine with wins at the World Athletics Diamond League series in Norway on May 30th.

Shericka Jackson's two-year unbeaten streak in the women's 200m came to an end as she finished fifth with a time of 22.97 seconds. The race saw the top three finishers achieve season's best times, pushing Jackson to prepare rigorously for the upcoming Jamaica Olympic Trials. In the men's 100m, Jamaicans Rohan Watson

and Yohan Blake finished sixth and seventh respectively, with Watson clocking a season's best 10.23 seconds. South Africa's Akani Simbine won the race in 9.94 seconds.

Grenada's Kirani James, former Olympic and world champion, secured second place in the men's 400m with a season's best time of 44.58 seconds. Great Britain's Matt Hudson-Smith broke his own European record, winning the event in 44.07 seconds.

However, Rushell Clayton led a Jamaican sweep in

the women's 400m hurdles, securing first place with a time of 54.02 seconds despite challenging weather conditions. Andrenette Knight and Janieve Russell followed, achieving season's best times of 54.63 and 55.07 seconds respectively.

"I never expected conditions like that, but nevertheless, it was a good race," Clayton shared post-race. "My execution went well, and I cannot ask for more than to win. It is always good to win. Each race is a challenge, and I am working towards a bigger goal."

In the women's 800-m, Natoya Goule-Toppin also ran a season's best time of 1 minute, 59.10 seconds, finishing second. South Africa's Prudence Sekgodiso won the race, clocking 1 minute, 58.66



Rushell Clayton of Jamaica runs to victory in the women's 400 metres hurdles during the Bislett Games, the sixth leg of the World Athletics Diamond League series, on Thursday in Oslo, Norway. (World Athletics photo)

seconds.

World champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic won the women's 400m with a world-leading 49.30 seconds. Barbados' Sada Williams finished fifth in the women's 400m, posting a season's best 50.71 seconds.

Jamaica's Fedrick Dacres finished sixth in the men's discus with a throw of 65.06

meters. Lithuania's Mykolas Alekna won the event, setting a new meet record with a throw of 70.91 meters.

The performances at the World Athletics Diamond League, however, highlight the continued determination of Caribbean athletes as they continue to make their mark on the global stage.





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Caribbean-Born, Preakness Winning Jockey For Belmont Stakes

Caribbean born jockey, Jaime Torres, who made history at the Preakness Stakes on May 18th by securing a remarkable win aboard Seize the Grey just two years after he began his riding career, is set for the Belmont Stakes on June 8th.

Torrest and Seize the Grey are heading to Saratoga, according to Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

Seize The Grey with Torres won the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland. The Puerto Rico native had previously guided Seize the Grey to victory in the Pat Day Mile on the Kentucky Derby undercard on May 4th at Churchill Downs.

Despite never having ridden

in a Triple Crown race before, Torres now boasts a perfect record of 1 for 1. On May 18th, he took the lead at the start of the race in Baltimore before a crowd of around 17,000 spectators and maintained his position throughout. He completed the 1 3/16 miles on a muddy track in 1:56.82, paying \$21.60 for the win.

Seize the Grey, owned by the MyRacehorse microshare partnership of over 2,700 people, was bred in Kentucky by Jamm, LTD, and purchased by MyRacehorse for \$300,000 from Mill Ridge Sales at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Yearling Sale in 2022.

Torres decided to pursue a career as a jockey in 2019



Caribbean born jockey, Jaime Torres, is hoping for another win at Belmont. (X image)

after watching horse racing on television from Hipódromo

Camarero. The next day, he went to the track and eventually enrolled in Puerto Rico's riding school. He then moved to Florida, working for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr., and won his first race on September 17, 2022, at Gulfstream Park on Takestwotowiggle. The following year, he was the leading apprentice in New York. Now he is a Triple Crown race-winning jockey.

Due to construction at the track, the 2024 Belmont Stakes will take place at Saratoga Race Course in Upstate New York. With the change in venue comes a change in distance, as the Belmont Stakes 2024 will be contested over 1 1/4 miles instead of the usual 1 1/2. It

marks just the second time over the last 99 years that the Run for the Carnations is being held at a distance less than 1 1/2 miles.

2024 Belmont Stakes odds:

Horse	Odds
Sierra Leone	7-4
Fierceness	3-1
Mystik Dan	5-1
Seize the Grey	6-1
Thorpedo Anna	10-1
Antiquarian	12-1
Honor Marie	12-1
The Wine Steward	18-1

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Grenada's Myles Hippolyte Brings Creative Flair To AFC Wimbledon With Two-Year Deal



Grenada international Myles Hippolyte has signed a two-year deal with AFC Wimbledon. (CMC image)

Grenada international Myles Hippolyte is excited to bring his creative flair to AFC Wimbledon after signing a two-year deal with the English League 2 club. Hippolyte, 29, previously helped Stockport County win both the English National League title in the 2021-22 season and the League 2 title this past season.

"There was interest from quite a few clubs," Hippolyte said on the Wimbledon website. "But AFC Wimbledon stood out for me. It feels great to call this place home and I hope to achieve more success here."

Hippolyte started his

senior career in Scotland with Livingston and played for Falkirk, St Mirren, and Dunfermline before moving to Yeovil Town in 2019. He then joined League 2 Scunthorpe and later Stockport in 2021, scoring nine goals in 93 matches.

As he prepares to join Wimbledon on July 1, Hippolyte is eager to make an impact. "I'm very creative when attacking and can bring a lot of assists to the team. I create a lot, get goals, and bring players into the game," he said.

Hippolyte is also familiar with several Wimbledon players,

including Ryan Johnson and Joe Lewis, which he believes will help him integrate smoothly. "I've stayed in touch with both Ryan and Joe since they moved to Wimbledon. There are quite

a few boys within this team that I'm close to already, so it should be easy for me to fit in," he added.

AFC Wimbledon finished 10th in the 24-team League 2

table last season, just five points off a play-off place.

- Rewritten from CMC



Tragic Shooting Claims Life Of Former Boys Town Star In Downtown Kingston

Jamaica police has launched an investigation following a tragic incident early Tuesday, May 28th, in the Corporate Area, where a popular footballer was shot dead and another man injured.

The deceased has been identified as Rafiek Thomas, 40, a former Boys Town player. The injured man has been hospitalized with gunshot wounds.

According to police reports, around 4:40 am (local time),

armed men invaded a house on Water Street in downtown Kingston and opened fire. Thomas was fatally shot while in bed upstairs, while the other man sustained gunshot wounds to his cheek, right palm, and left elbow.

Thomas was renowned for scoring the winning goal that secured Boys Town's Championship League title last season against Constant Spring.



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"On Juneteenth, I would like to see the youth acknowledge the history and remember that they have a reason to celebrate. They can find their own way, create their own path in life, not be limited or directed. If they want to pursue anything, they can, and that's freedom and independence."

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