NOVEMBER 2026

Caribbean Today

CELEBRATING 37 Years

Consistently Credible~We Cover Your World

Vol. 37 No. 12

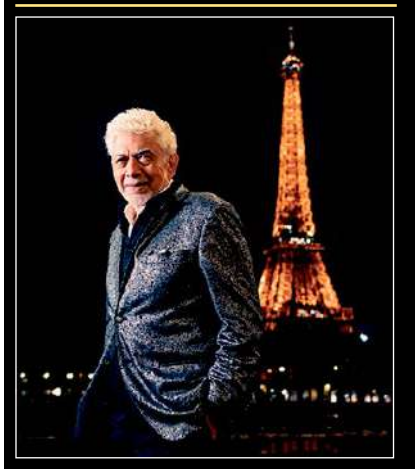
PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 7315

Tel: (305) 238-2868
1-800-605-7516
editor@caribbeantoday.com
sales@caribbeantoday.com
www.caribbeantoday.com

THE MULTI-AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED



NO APOLOGY FROM THE KING
King Charles III faced calls to apologize for slavery but stopped short... Page 2



JAMAICAN JAZZ LEGEND HONORED
Monty Alexander receives prestigious cultural distinction in Paris. ... Page 11



TINY FEET, BIG DREAMS!
Three-year-old Haitian roots soccer sensation catches Jay-Z's attention ... Page 17

HISTORY MADE

Byron Donalds becomes Florida's first Black governor, bringing Jamaican heritage to the governor's mansion as Republicans retain control... Page 3



Trump-endorsed Byron Donalds will be Florida's next Governor.
CREDIT: (Photo: byrondonalds.com)

INSIDE

Local News ..... Page 7
Feature ..... Page 8
Viewpoint ..... Page 9
Food News ..... Page 13
Health News ..... Page 14
Travel News ..... Page 15
Immigration News ..... Page 16

BPAF
CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

REGIONAL NEWS

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News:

REGIONAL

Britain's King Charles III described the transatlantic slave trade as a "shameful chapter" of history but stopped short of offering a formal apology during his address to Commonwealth leaders in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Charles said slavery filled his heart with "horror" and his soul with "profound personal sorrow." He pledged to pursue partnerships addressing historical injustices through education, economic opportunities, trade and climate resilience.

However, Caribbean leaders continued pressing for reparatory justice. Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne called for meaningful dialogue on the enduring consequences of slavery and colonialism, while CARICOM reparations advocates welcomed Britain's willingness to discuss a possible apology.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has signaled openness to a formal apology but ruled out financial reparations. Outside the summit, protesters demanded more than expressions of regret, holding placards calling for an apology and reparatory justice.

JAMAICA

Jamaica's reggae and dancehall stars have blasted Prime Minister Andrew Holness after he accused entertainers of exploiting the Jamaican flag to attract audiences while publicly criticizing the country.

The controversy erupted after Beenie Man questioned the government's handling of donations intended for victims of Hurricane Melissa.

Holness accused the entertainer of spreading falsehoods and undermining Jamaica's image.

But reggae star Buju Banton fired back, declaring, "We are the brand Jamaica," insisting artists built the country's global cultural reputation through decades of hard work.



In The Bahamas, members of the Rastafari community and other reparations advocates gathered near Clifford Park holding placards and calling for Britain to account for the legacy of slavery and colonialism.

Spragga Benz, Konshens, Anthony B and Tanya Stephens also joined the backlash, questioning the pace and transparency of hurricane relief distribution.

Stephens defended Beenie Man, asking, "Which lie Beenie tell?" while Spragga Benz raised concerns about reportedly unspent donations.

The public feud has intensified scrutiny of the government's disaster response, with entertainers demanding accountability for funds intended to help Jamaicans still struggling to recover from the hurricane.

GUYANA

Guyana's Chief Magistrate Judy Latchman has rejected a U.S. request to revoke extradition bail granted to Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed and his father, Nazar Mohamed. Latchman ruled On Nov. 2nd that pending criminal charges without convictions were insufficient grounds to revoke bail.

However, the younger Mohamed remains behind bars until November 24th on separate local charges, including allegations involving a firearm near the home of a senior police officer who is a witness in his extradition case.

The ruling sparked unrest outside the Georgetown Magistrates' Court, where protesters demanding Mohamed's release pushed down police barricades. Reports indicated that police fired rubber bullets as demonstrators hurled bottles and debris. Mohamed's family has accused authorities of political persecution and mistreatment in prison, allegations rejected by the Guyana Prison Service.

The Guyana Human Rights Association has also raised concerns about his detention, while supporters continue demanding his release. The extradition proceedings remain ongoing.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

A 20-year-old Trinidadian man has been remanded in custody after being charged with murdering his mother and teenage sister. Nicholas Ramlal appeared before High Court Master Valene Guerra Abraham on October 27, accused of killing Rosanna Ramlal, 49, and Alina Ramlal, 17.

The victims were discovered inside their burning home in Malick, Barataria, on October 16. Autopsies revealed both had been shot in the head before the fire was started. Ramlal was not required to enter a plea because the charges were laid indictably. The court remanded him until February 22, 2027. He remains presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

HAITI

Haiti has announced plans to hold its first general elections in more than a decade as gang violence continues to grip the Caribbean nation. The Provisional Electoral Council has scheduled the first round for July 18, 2027, with a second round on October 4, 2027. Voter registration is expected to close May 20.

The announcement comes amid heightened tensions following the deployment of more than 2,000 Salvadoran troops after four aviation technicians from El Salvador disappeared in October. Notorious 400 Mawozo gang leader Wilson Joseph has appealed to the United Nations for mediation, warning that the Salvadoran military presence could trigger further violence.

Haiti has lacked an elected president since Jovenel Moïse's assassination in 2021.

Meanwhile, American Airlines has announced the resumption of daily nonstop flights between Miami and Cap-Haïtien, even as the U.S. State Department maintains its highest-level "Do Not Travel" advisory for Haiti.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew says a neck massage during his August vacation caused an arterial tear that led to his stroke and emergency medical treatment in the United States. Drew, 49, explained that excessive neck manipulation resulted in a vertebral artery dissection, restricting blood flow to his brain.

Speaking at a national thanksgiving service recently, he said dizziness and balance problems prompted him to seek medical advice. The prime minister, who returned home on Oct. 24th, said he had been medically cleared and resumed official duties on Oct. 26th. He thanked citizens for their prayers and support during his recovery.

- Rewritten from CMC News & NewsAmericasNow.com



Florida Elects First Black Governor With Caribbean Roots

BY CARIBBEAN TODAY STAFF WRITER

Florida voters made history on November 3, electing Republican Congressman Byron Donalds as the state's first Black governor and the first with Caribbean family roots, while extending Republican control of the governor's mansion for another four years.

Yet beneath the historic Republican victory, signs of a shifting electorate emerged. Florida's most heavily Hispanic districts reportedly swung between 14 and 23 percentage points toward Democrats, suggesting growing discontent among some Latino voters with President Donald Trump's administration, particularly its aggressive immigration enforcement policies.

Donalds, a staunch Trump ally, defeated Democrat David Jolly, a former Republican congressman who switched parties, in a closer-than-expected contest in a state that has not elected a Democratic governor since 1994.

According to the election-night figures provided, Donalds secured 50.1 percent of the vote, or 4,117,196 ballots, compared with Jolly's 48.7 percent, or 4,001,458 votes. The result was considerably narrower than Governor Ron DeSantis' landslide reelection in 2022, when he defeated his Democratic challenger by more than 20 percentage points.

Donalds, who reportedly raised approximately $130 million, enjoyed an enormous financial advantage over Jolly, who struggled to secure comparable support from national Democratic organizations that have reduced their investments in Florida over recent election cycles.

The Republican also benefited from Trump's early endorsement, which helped consolidate support for his candidacy. Adding to the financial and political forces surrounding the race, the right-leaning political action committee American Mission, backed by technology industry figures including OpenAI's president, reportedly spent at least $500,000 on approximately 1,700 television advertising spots promoting Donalds and highlighting Trump's endorsement. The advertising campaign targeted voters in the Tampa Bay and Tallahassee markets and reportedly involved a company facing congressional scrutiny.



Byron Donalds celebrates with his wife Erika Donalds in Hollywood, Florida. *(AP Photo/ Rebecca Blackwell)*

Donalds will become Florida's fifth consecutive Republican governor when he succeeds term-limited DeSantis in January 2027. With family roots tracing to Jamaica and Panama, his election represents a milestone for Black and Caribbean-American political representation in one of the nation's most populous states.

But the historic achievement also comes with political contradictions. Donalds campaigned on continuing many of DeSantis' conservative policies, including school choice, education restrictions and lower taxes, while his positions on immigration and race-related education policies have generated debate.

The campaign itself was dominated by disagreements over affordability, property insurance, education and ideology. Jolly refused to debate Donalds, accusing his opponent of dishonesty, while Donalds repeatedly characterized the Democrat as too liberal for Florida.

REPUBLICANS RETAIN KEY STATEWIDE OFFICES

Florida Republicans also maintained control of several major statewide offices. Republican Senator Ashley Moody defeated Democrat Angie Nixon in the special election for the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Marco Rubio, who left Congress to become secretary of state.

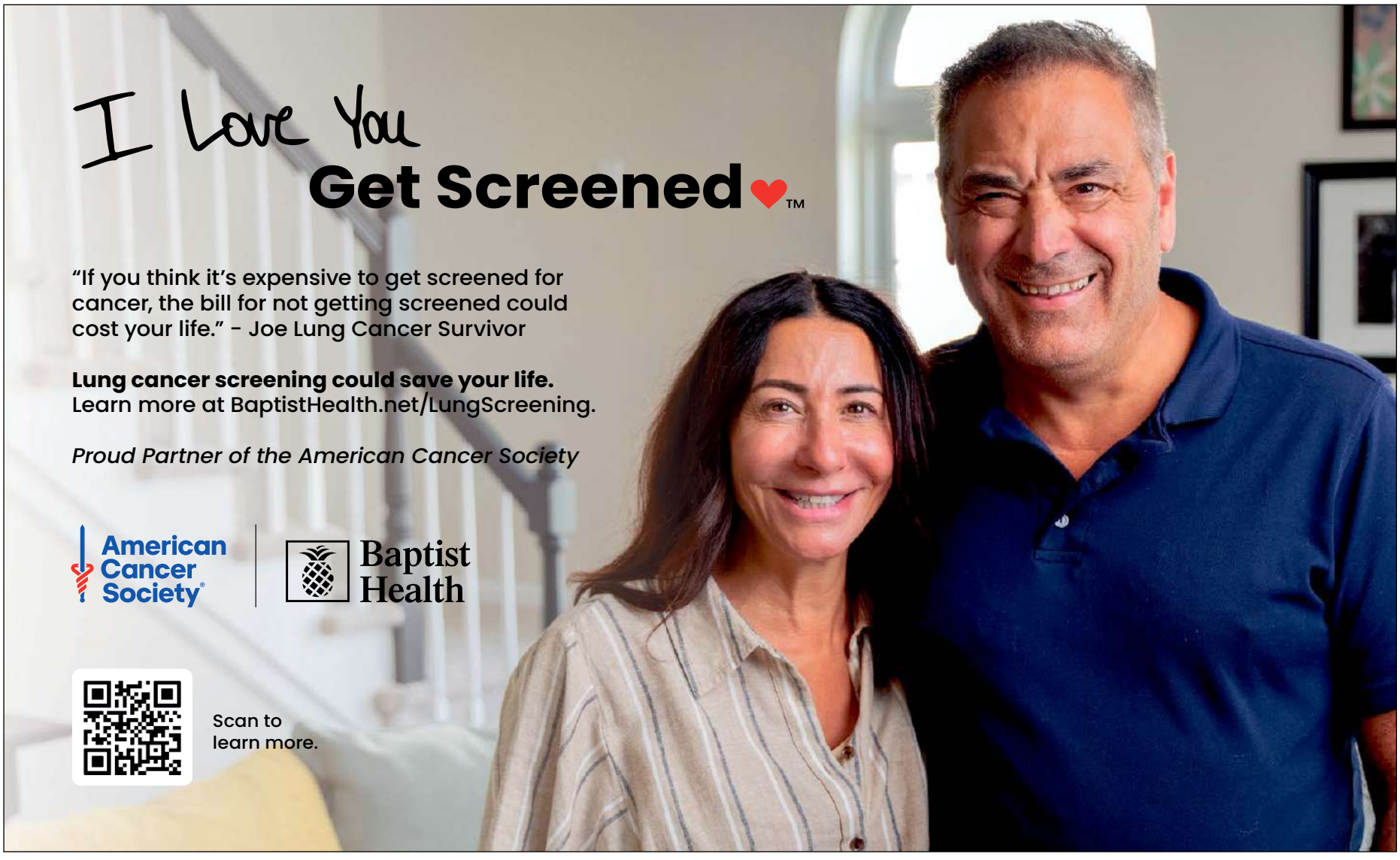
Moody will serve the remainder of Rubio's term, with the seat returning to the ballot in 2028.

Republican James Uthmeier won election as Florida attorney general, while Blaise Ingoglia captured the chief financial officer's office and Wilton Simpson retained his position as agriculture commissioner. The results reinforced Republican control of Florida's executive branch despite Democratic gains in several parts of the state.

SOUTH FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL RESULTS

Several congressional contests attracted particular attention among South

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

NEWS

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

Caribbean Divided As UN Vote On Cuba Embargo Sees Sharp Rise In Abstentions

The Caribbean's longstanding solidarity against the U.S. embargo on Cuba fractured dramatically at the United Nations on October 28, as several countries that previously supported calls to end the sanctions either abstained or voted against the resolution.

Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic abstained from the annual UN General Assembly vote, while Trinidad and Tobago joined the United States in opposing the measure. The resolution still passed 130 to 17, with 25 abstentions, but support fell sharply from 2025, when 165 countries voted in favor, seven opposed, and 12 abstained.

The shift marked a significant departure from the Caribbean's traditionally unified opposition to the decades-old U.S. embargo, raising questions about the region's diplomatic alignment as American influence expands.

Trinidad and Tobago supported the resolution in 2025, as did Guyana, Jamaica, and Haiti. Their shift this year underscored a widening division among Caribbean governments over an issue that has historically drawn broad regional agreement. The vote followed an intensive diplomatic campaign by the Trump administration, which urged countries to reject the resolution, citing Cuba's human-rights record, political prisoners and other concerns.



View of the UN votes on Oct. 28, 2026

Cuba, meanwhile, accused Washington of pressuring governments through threats involving tariffs, visas and U.S. assistance. Those allegations have not been independently established. The changing vote also comes as several Caribbean governments deepen cooperation with Washington on immigration, security and other regional priorities.

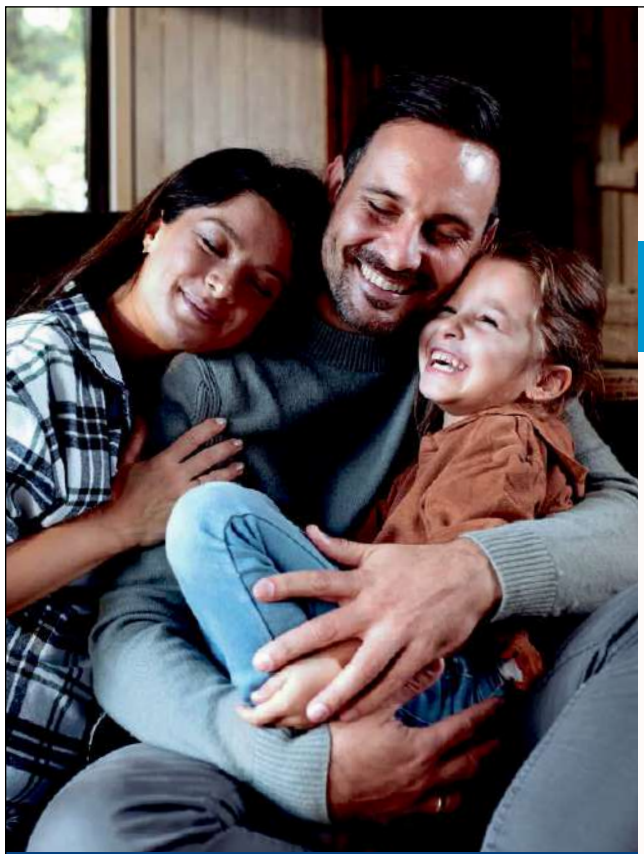
Guyana and Jamaica have entered arrangements to temporarily receive or transit certain third-country migrants removed from the United States, while Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have strengthened security and diplomatic cooperation with Washington.

However, no evidence has established that those arrangements determined how the governments voted on Cuba. The shift carries particular significance for the Caribbean Community, whose members have historically opposed the embargo on grounds of sovereignty, non-interference and the economic hardship imposed on ordinary Cubans.

Cuba continues to face severe economic difficulties, including fuel shortages, blackouts and declining purchasing power. While domestic economic policies and structural weaknesses have contributed to the crisis, international agencies have also identified the embargo as an aggravating factor.

Despite securing another overwhelming majority, Cuba received 35 fewer affirmative votes than in 2025, while the number of countries opposing the resolution more than doubled. The annual General Assembly resolution is non-binding and does not compel Washington to lift the embargo. But this year's vote sent a clear diplomatic message: Cuba retained majority international support, while the Caribbean's once-consistent position showed a significant, highly visible split.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Florida Blue

Protect what matters most

with a plan that helps you save.

Open Enrollment for 2027 is on! Take this opportunity to find a health plan that fits your busy life, makes getting care simpler, and works harder for you and your family.

Look to Florida Blue for benefits like:

- $0 labs and wellness checkups[1]
- $0 virtual care available 24/7 on most plans
- A large selection of doctors, specialists, pediatricians, and hospitals

Our local agents are here to help you enroll in the right plan for your family.

Don't miss out on health coverage for 2027!

Call 1-844-396-1909 or visit FloridaBlue.com/ForYou

[1]Many Florida Blue plans cover annual wellness checkups, including covered vaccinations, lab work, and screenings, for a $0 copay. During your checkup, if you need medical tests or treatments, prescriptions, or a referral, you may have a cost share. When scheduling your checkup with a new doctor for the first time, ask if you need a new patient visit before your checkup. If so, you may have a cost share for the new patient visit. Policies have limitations and exclusions. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue, and HMO from Health Options, Inc., DBA Florida Blue HMO, are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. 125919 0926

Death Of Haitian College Student Under ICE Monitoring Ruled Suicide

The death of a 20-year-old Haitian college student who walked into highway traffic in Ohio while under U.S. immigration monitoring has officially been ruled a suicide, according to a death certificate completed on October 16.

Pierre Damas Bel, a first-year student at Wright State University, died August 31 after stepping into traffic on Interstate 70 near Springfield, Ohio. According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, Acting Clark County Coroner Aamir Khan classified Bel's death as suicide, with multiple blunt-force injuries listed as the immediate cause.

Bel's family and friends believe the emotional distress and humiliation he experienced after being required to wear an electronic ankle monitor contributed to his death. However, the coroner's findings do not establish what prompted his actions. Bel arrived in the United States in 2024 and joined relatives in Springfield, home to a sizable Haitian immigrant community.

On July 29, he attended a scheduled appointment



An Ohio coroner has now confirmed Pierre Damas Bel died by suicide.

with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and was placed in the agency's Alternatives to Detention program, which required him to wear a GPS ankle monitor while his immigration proceedings continued.

He died just over a month later, approximately one week after beginning classes at Wright State. His death sparked vigils, demonstrations and calls for greater scrutiny of immigration enforcement practices among members of Springfield's Haitian community. More than 200 people, including Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, attended his funeral on October 3.

Viles Dorsainvil, executive director of the Haitian Support Center in Springfield, told the Enquirer that Bel's father had been awaiting the coroner's findings. "The father has been waiting for this report a long time," Dorsainvil said. "It was important for him to know."

Despite the coroner's determination, ICE said the circumstances surrounding Bel's death remained under investigation by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Department of Homeland Security rejected allegations that ICE was responsible for his death, stating that Bel had been placed under electronic monitoring as part of ongoing immigration proceedings.

The agency did not indicate whether it had reviewed its ankle-monitoring policies following the tragedy. Bel's death has intensified concerns among Haitian immigrant advocates about the psychological impact of immigration enforcement measures on vulnerable individuals and families.

- Rewritten from the Cincinnati Enquirer

U.S. Deportations Of Jamaicans Nearly Doubled In 2025, Report Shows

The number of Jamaicans deported from the United States nearly doubled in 2025, rising from 486 to 967 the previous year, according to the latest Economic and Social Survey Jamaica (ESSJ).

The report, published by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), revealed that a total of 1,317 Jamaicans were involuntarily returned to the island from countries worldwide last year. The United States accounted for approximately 73 percent of all deportations, making it the largest source of Jamaican returnees.

The figures represent a 99 percent increase in deportations from the United States compared with 2024. Canada accounted for 70 deportations, while the United Kingdom recorded 25. Authorities also returned 255 Jamaicans from other countries.

Immigration violations were the leading reported reason for deportation, accounting for 610 cases. These included illegal entry, overstaying, and unlawful re-entry. Of those deported for immigration-related violations, 376 were returned from the United States and 184 from other countries.

Criminal offenses also accounted for many returns. According to the report, 171 Jamaicans were deported for drug possession, while 134 were returned for wounding, assault or battery.

Another 95 were deported for firearm-related offenses, and 60 for murder, manslaughter or attempted murder, including 52 from the United States. The survey also recorded 64 deportations involving fraud or false documents and 63 for sex-related offenses.

The ESSJ is an annual assessment of Jamaica's economic and social conditions, including migration patterns and deportation trends.

- Rewritten from CMC

Florida Elects First Black Governor With Caribbean Roots

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Florida's Caribbean-American and Black communities. Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz won election in Florida's newly configured 20th Congressional District, encompassing predominantly Black communities in central and western Broward County.

The district includes portions of Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, Tamarac, North Lauderdale, Plantation, Sunrise and Pompano Beach. Her victory marks a significant change for communities that had been represented by Black members of Congress for more than three decades.

In District 22, Democrat Pia Dandiya, a first-generation American whose parents immigrated from India, won election to Congress. Democrat Oliver Gilbert III secured the District 24 seat vacated by retiring Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, while Democratic Congressman Jared Moskowitz won another term representing District 25.

In District 27, Republican Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar, who had previously supported Trump but later distanced herself from him, faced a competitive challenge in the South Florida district. She is neck and neck in a reelection battle against former television journalist Eliott Rodriguez. Salazar

HAITIAN-AMERICAN CANDIDATE IN LOCAL CONTEST

In Coral Springs, William "Bill" Capplis held an election-night lead over Haitian-born candidate Marly Metayer in a local commission race.

Metayer is the mother of the late Coral Springs Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen, whose death earlier this year shocked the South Florida Haitian-American community. The final outcome remained subject to confirmation at press time.

VOTERS APPROVE PROPERTY TAX AMENDMENT

Florida voters also approved Amendment 3, establishing an additional homestead property tax exemption. The measure received approximately 62 percent support in the election-night figures, reflecting continued voter concern over housing costs and property taxes.

BLACK GOVERNORS MAKE HISTORY BEYOND FLORIDA

The elections also delivered a historic breakthrough in Georgia, where Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former mayor of Atlanta, defeated Republican businessman Rick Jackson to become the state's first Black governor and first woman elected to the office.

Bottoms also made national history as the first Black woman elected governor in the United States.

Her victory carries particular significance in Georgia, which is home to a sizable Caribbean immigrant community, including tens of thousands of Jamaican-born residents concentrated in metropolitan Atlanta.

In Maryland, Democratic Governor Wes Moore, whose maternal family heritage includes Jamaica and Cuba, won reelection, adding another Caribbean-connected political figure to the nation's gubernatorial leadership.

The results underscored the growing visibility of Black political leadership and Caribbean heritage in American public life, even as those elected represent sharply different political parties and policy priorities.

BLACK VOTER TURNOUT DRAWS ATTENTION

Black voter participation also emerged as a significant feature of the election, with civil rights organizers reporting particularly strong turnout in several states.

LaTosha Brown, co-founder of the voting rights organization Black Voters Matter, said participation in some areas appeared to rival the historic 2008 presidential election, when Barack Obama became the nation's first Black president.

Speaking during a media briefing organized by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Brown identified Michigan and Mississippi as states where turnout appeared especially strong.

She said her organization deployed more than 2,000 poll observers across several states, with monitors reporting no widespread voting problems.

Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the coalition, emphasized that election protection efforts would continue beyond Election Day, including monitoring vote counting, certification and the inauguration of elected officials.

"As those of us who believe that this democracy is for all people, we have to also stand in the gap," Campbell said.

CONTROL OF CONGRESS REMAINS IN FOCUS

At press time, Democrats appeared positioned to gain control of the U.S. House of Representatives, while the balance of power in the Senate remained uncertain as votes continued to be counted in closely contested races.

The final congressional results will shape the political landscape confronting President Trump during the final two years of his current term.

For Florida, however, the gubernatorial outcome was settled: Republicans retained the governor's mansion, but voters also elected a historic first - a Black governor whose family roots reach back to the Caribbean.

Whether the state's changing voting patterns, particularly among Hispanic communities, signal a more lasting political realignment remains an important question beyond Election Day.

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

NEWS

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

Adam Stewart Honored For Caribbean Tourism Leadership At New York Gala

Adam Stewart, executive chairman of Sandals and Beaches Resorts, received the American Friends of Jamaica's (AFJ) 2026 International Achievement Award for his contributions to Caribbean tourism, business development, and philanthropy.

Stewart was honored at the organization's annual Hummingbird Gala on October 16 at The Plaza Hotel in New York City, where Jamaican-American actress and advocate Sheryl Lee Ralph also received the International Humanitarian Award. The event brought together business leaders, philanthropists and supporters of Jamaica, with remarks from Prime Minister Andrew Holness and a performance by reggae and dancehall artist Sister Nancy.

The annual gala raises funds to support AFJ programs in education, healthcare and economic development across Jamaica. Stewart, who succeeded his late father, Sandals founder Gordon "Butch" Stewart, as leader of the resort company, reflected on the family's business journey in his acceptance remarks.

"In 1981, my late father had a bold idea: to start a hotel company with just 99 rooms beside an airport in Montego Bay," Stewart said. "What began as a simple dream has grown into a globally recognized brand, proudly standing on the world stage."

He credited Caribbean workers for the company's growth, noting that Sandals and Beaches employ more than 20,000 people, approximately 97 percent of whom were born in the Caribbean.

The recognition comes as the company undertakes a $200 million redevelopment of three Jamaican resorts affected by Hurricane Melissa in 2025.

Sandals South Coast, Sandals Montego Bay and Sandals Caribbean Cay are undergoing renovations that include new accommodations, redesigned swimming pools, expanded dining options and upgraded guest facilities. Sandals South Coast is scheduled to reopen November 18, while Sandals Montego Bay and Sandals Caribbean Cay are expected to reopen December 18.

The company said it kept its Jamaican employees on the payroll with benefits during the resort closures and committed more than $5 million to direct recovery assistance for affected workers. Through the Sandals Foundation, the company also supported relief efforts in hurricane-impacted communities.

Beyond resort development, Stewart has promoted workforce training and education through Sandals Corporate University, which he founded in 2012 to give Caribbean employees access to professional certifications, degree programs, and other learning opportunities. He also serves as president of the Sandals Foundation, which supports education, community development and environmental conservation projects across the Caribbean.

The American Friends of Jamaica, a nonprofit organization established nearly four decades ago, supports initiatives aimed at improving education, healthcare and economic opportunities in Jamaica.

The 2026 International Achievement Award recognizes Stewart's leadership in expanding the Caribbean's tourism industry and his involvement in initiatives supporting communities throughout the region.

Jamaica Urges Diaspora Students To Help Drive Economic Development

Jamaica is encouraging young nationals studying overseas to use their education, skills, and international experience to help drive economic development back home.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Alando Terrelonge delivered the message during a town hall luncheon with Jamaican students attending universities across the northeastern United States. The gathering took place October 24 at Temple University in Philadelphia as part of the second Jamaica Diaspora Northeast USA Conference.



Alando Terrelonge Center, Lishann Salmon Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, D.C, Consul General of Jamaica in New York, Oliver Mair and Michelle Tulloch-Neil, Global Jamaica Diaspora Council representative for the Northeast United States share a photo opportunity with Jamaican students attending universities across the northeastern United States at a town hall luncheon during the second Jamaica Diaspora Northeast USA Conference at Temple University in Philadelphia on Saturday, October 24. *(Derrick Scott image)*

Terrelonge identified investment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture, tourism, technology, renewable energy, infrastructure and the creative industries. He said Jamaica's strategic location, transportation connections and established democratic institutions positioned the country to attract international business and investment.

The minister particularly encouraged young entrepreneurs to explore agricultural processing and exports, using innovation to help Jamaican products reach overseas markets. He also highlighted opportunities in film production and digital content, noting that Jamaica's cultural heritage and history offer stories that can attract international audiences.

Terrelonge urged students not to view their overseas education solely as a route to employment abroad but as an opportunity to acquire expertise that could contribute to Jamaica's future. "You are right to be at the table. We want to hear your voices. We want your involvement," he told the students.

The luncheon also gave participants a chance to discuss Jamaica's development priorities and ways younger diaspora members could become more involved in national affairs.

The two-day conference, held October 23–24, took place under the theme "One Diaspora, One Vision: Advancing Jamaica Together."



DR. LENWARD McCALLA



Practice of Optometry

- Comprehensive Eye Exams • Contact Lens fits
- Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluations
- Glaucoma Treatment and Management
- Children's Examinations • Cataract Evaluations
- Post Lasik Care

11217 S. Dixie Highway • Miami, FL 33156

(305) 378-1915

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS

Miami AI Company Acquires Jamaican Drone Technology Business In Multimillion-Dollar Deal

A Miami-based technology company has acquired the drone, mapping, and artificial intelligence operations of Jamaica's PlayJamaica Ltd. in a deal that could be worth more than US$3.2 million if revenue targets are achieved.

According to a report by the Jamaica Gleaner, AIBotics Inc. completed the acquisition of the NovaCore Labs business on October 14, following an agreement signed two days earlier. The transaction, disclosed in filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, includes an initial payment of US$225,000 in preferred shares, with up to US$3 million in additional shares tied to revenue milestones over four years.

The acquired assets include commercial drones, mapping equipment, software, intellectual property, customer contracts, and institutional partnerships developed over the past decade. NovaCore has participated in Jamaica's Google Street View mapping initiative and established relationships with institutions including the University of Technology and the University of the West Indies Global Campus.

AIBotics CEO Ben Kaplan told the Financial Gleaner that the acquisition gives it an established operating base in Jamaica and a chance to expand technology services across the Caribbean. "We were not looking to acquire hardware. We were looking for a platform," Kaplan said.


Gregory Moore, a principal developer of PlayJamaica Ltd.

Under the agreement, PlayJamaica could receive additional payments if the acquired business achieves cumulative revenue milestones ranging from US$500,000 to US$5 million. AIBotics also plans to invest up to US$1 million in NovaCore's Jamaican operations, though that funding depends on available resources and a separate capital raise.

Gregory Moore, a principal developer of the acquired technology, will serve as CEO of NovaCore Labs Limited, while Ryan Moore will become vice-president. The company intends to expand services involving drones, geospatial mapping, robotics and automation, targeting opportunities in Jamaica and other Caribbean markets.

Kaplan said Jamaica would serve as the starting point for regional expansion, with potential applications in tourism, hospitality and other industries. The acquisition does not include PlayJamaica's virtual reality, simulator, creative services, event production or esports businesses, which remain under its ownership.

Neither company has disclosed NovaCore's revenue, profitability or workforce size

- Rewritten from the Jamaica Gleaner

Broward County To Rename School After Late Coral Springs Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Late Coral Springs Vice Mayor, Haitian American Nancy Metayer, will have a school renamed after her. The Broward County School Board gave Schools Superintendent Dr. Howard Hepburn the green light to begin the process of renaming Sawgrass Middle School in her honor, despite parental objections.

Metayer became the first Haitian American elected to the Coral Springs City Commission in 2020. She ran unopposed in 2024 and was rumored to run for U.S. Congress before her death.

Metayer was a prominent Florida Democratic Party leader, an environmental scientist, and a champion of environmental justice and disaster relief statewide. She led Haitian American voter outreach for the Florida Democratic Party and served as Florida's Caribbean Vote Director for Kamala Harris's 2024 presidential campaign against President Donald Trump.

Her mother, Marly Metayer, who's running for her daughter's seat, said renaming a school after Nancy Metayer is an honor. "Nancy has a lot to do with the good things in the community," Marly Metayer said. "That's why I'm running for her seat to keep Nancy's legacy alive."

Metayer said her daughter sponsored legislation to celebrate Haitian Heritage Month in Coral Springs in May, the first of its kind in the city's history. "Nancy was the voice of the Haitian community," she said. "And we need to continue that legacy and represent the Haitian population because everyone deserves to be heard and present in their community."

According to police, Metayer was shot and killed by her husband during a domestic violence incident in April 2026 at their Coral Springs home.

Stephen Bowen has been charged with first-degree murder and pleaded not guilty. He is awaiting trial.

Since her death, Metayer's family, friends, and colleagues have paid tribute to her, including a portrait that hung at the Haitian Heritage Month museum exhibit called Continuum: Heritage and Expression, a tree planted in her honor, and a proposal to name a post office after her.


Sawgrass Middle School will be renamed after late Coral Springs Vice Mayor, Haitian American Nancy Metayer. *(Photo courtesy of the City of Coral Springs)*

Her supporters advocated naming a school after her, and the school board agreed. "Vice Mayor Metayer was deeply involved with Sawgrass Middle School and its school community, building meaningful relationships with students, families, educators, and staff and supporting efforts that helped students thrive," the agenda item reads.

"Naming Sawgrass Middle School in her honor would recognize her lasting contributions to the community and create a meaningful legacy that reflects the values she championed throughout her life - education, service, environmental stewardship, and care for others."

But some parents have pushed back, citing costs amid budget constraints and arguing that renaming Sawgrass Middle School would strip it of its identity and history. They instead support naming a building or a program in her honor.

Over the summer, U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz introduced a bill to rename the U.S. Postal Service facility at 3255 NW 94th Avenue as the "Nancy Metayer Post Office Building." The bill is waiting for a vote by the full House.

JAMAICA
TOURIST BOARD



WE'RE HIRING!

- **Business Development Officer - USA**
  Ohio-based, Remote Position
- **Business Development Officer - USA**
  Los-Angeles-based, Remote Position

The Business Development Officer will be responsible for identifying and creating new business opportunities, analyzing market trends, developing partnerships, and contributing to the growth and development of tourism to Jamaica. The role involves engaging with potential and existing travel partners, maintaining strong communication, and supporting efforts to promote Jamaica as a leading tourism destination.

Requirements:

- Excellent sales, networking, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Proven ability to identify opportunities and drive revenue or partnership growth
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently, manage multiple projects, and meet targets/deadlines
- Able to travel locally in region & internationally
- Must own reliable transportation
- Passion for brand Jamaica
- High level of professionalism, creativity, and initiative
- A Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Business Administration, Tourism Management, or a related field
- At least five (5) years' experience in sales, business development, or client relationship management

Send your CV & Cover Letter to:
Email: JTBHR@visitjamaica.com

Special Requirements:

- **Must own and operate a reliable motor vehicle**
- **Must be a US Citizen, Green Card Holder, or possess documents to legally work in the USA**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

FEATURE

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

A "Red Woman" Wid Plenty Laughs

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

From the traditional corporate world as an executive assistant, accountant, pensions manager, human relations manager, Cindy-Ann Boisson left the familiar and expected work life trajectory for a career that truly spoke to her.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Boisson knew she was taking a leap of faith, but this 'Trini to the bone' had to follow her heart. "I've always loved storytelling, and laughter was very much something that we did a lot of in my home growing up. My mom laughed. She was funny, not intentionally funny, I would say, but just funny. And so I've always loved comedy," said an animated Boisson in a conversation with Caribbean Today recently.

Significant Influence

Her mother, who passed away when Boisson was in her twenties, significantly influenced her sense of humor. Coming from a large, close-knit family and as the youngest, Boisson absorbed all the stories, the antics, the entertainment until it seeped into her bones.

Her brother was responsible for her early exposure to comedy. He introduced her to the work of some of the time's famous acts and comedians such as Sinbad, Eddie Murphy, and shows like 'Saturday Night Live' and 'In Living Color.'

Although Boisson was drawn to comedy, she knew it wasn't a realistic full-time career option for her in Trinidad, or the Caribbean for that matter. "It wasn't a viable career. There was no path to make money," she said. "It was more based on a lot of pro bono work, a lot of struggle, a lot of disrespect, particularly against women in theatre."

But she was determined to at least get her 'toes into the water.' Working in the corporate world part-time, she pursued and worked in theatre in Trinidad and Tobago for several years, and in 2009 landed her first live comedy role onstage with the likes of Errol Fabien, Dennis 'Sprangalang' Hall, and Wendell Etienne, some of the twin-island republic's famous comics. "And I was the lone female in the play, and it was good," Boisson remarked.

In 2010, an opportunity to migrate to the United States presented itself. She, her husband, and her son landed in South Florida, where she is still based. With her son off to college in 2014, Boisson took the time to study her craft with improvisation and stand-up classes at Improv.

"And the plan was to dive straight into comedy. And so, I did my first open mic in June 2014. And I remember just thinking that moment on stage, this is it, this is what I want to do," said a reflective Boisson.

But "fast forward a few months later, my dad passed suddenly from an aneurysm."

"I got off the stage, and honestly, Dawn, I never thought I would get back into comedy. I had given up. I was done. There was nothing to laugh at. And so, I didn't do comedy for about a year," she shared. "I was in such a dark place after I lost my dad. I would say it took me close to 10 years to sort of finally work through the pain and release of it."

Red Woman

But at the urging of some "Trini people," the comedian said she jumped back on the comedy circuit with a show in 2015 and has been onstage since. Boisson's latest one-woman comedy act – 'The Red Woman Tour' - has done stints in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Toronto, Atlanta and Philadelphia. It ends at the Fort Lauderdale Improv in Dania Beach, Florida, on December 13, 2026.

Why 'Red Woman' (or Red Gyal)? Rooted in colonial history, where lighter skin tones were preferred, it is a colloquial term for light-skinned or fair-skinned women in Trinidad and Tobago. Asked how easy or hard it is to break into the comedy industry, the comedian said: "I'm still breaking into the industry. It's competitive. I'm Caribbean to begin with, I'm very Trini, I have a Trini accent, I'm a woman, a black Caribbean woman. It's not easy," Boisson revealed. "But I have to stay true to myself. I have to know that I bring value and just keep knocking on those doors until somebody sees what I have to offer. I also understand and recognize that I have to kick down the door harder than anybody else."



Trinidad & Tobago-born comedian Cindy-Ann Boisson ends the 'The Red Woman Tour' at the Fort Lauderdale Improv in Dania Beach, Florida, on December 13, 2026. *(Contributed image)*

Her shows aren't just about everyday occurrences or cultural idiosyncrasies; they also feature personal, sometimes sensitive, issues. One of those issues is breast cancer. As a survivor, Boisson has taken the proverbial bull by the horns to bring awareness and openness about medical and mental health issues so many face.

Boisson credits an American comedian, Maria Bamford, for helping her open up to sharing her own personal journey with double mastectomy and reconstruction. Working with Bamford on tour, who spoke openly about mental health challenges, made her realize that there is no shame, and indeed benefits to opening up.

Boisson's comedy is about honesty. That is why she respects comics such as Bill Burr, Dave Chappelle, Wanda Sykes, Sindhu Vee, and the late Patrice O'Neal. On her current tour, Boisson works with AHAM Education, a nonprofit focused on mindfulness, positivity, and peace for human wellness.

She believes that "laughter is the best medicine and the most underrated healing tool we have." She also works with children and young people through her program called Tickled, helping them explore comedy, improvisation, and storytelling.

The comedian has also created a scholarship in her parents' name that is awarded to the top male and female students of the Paramin R.C School in Trinidad when they sit their Secondary Entrance Assessment exams. Both her parents attended the school. And continuing that work, as a Literacy Ambassador for Broward County, Florida, Boisson works with children within the county's school program.

So, what's next for this Trini comedian? She will keep touring and showcasing her talent, no matter the audience. "You have to learn to deal with criticism and rejection. You have to learn how to work through a tough audience," she added. "If there's an energy shift in the room, you have to be so in tune with your art that you realize it, and not just act as if everything is normal and you keep doing the same. You have to change the energy."

✹

Award-Winning Author Danticat And Other Caribbean Writers To Take Center Stage At 43rd Miami Book Fair

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Several Caribbean authors will take center stage at the 43rd Miami Book Fair, which features more than 500 book and novel writers from around the world. The Miami Book Fair, one of the largest literary festivals in the world, runs Nov. 15–22, 2026, at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. 2nd Avenue in Downtown Miami.

This year, the event features Caribbean and diasporic authors, including Haitian, Jamaican, Trinidadian, and Cuban writers, through its 'ReadCaribbean' stage and Street Fair programming. The ReadCaribbean stage is part of the Miami Book Fair's Street Fair weekend, Nov. 20-22, 2026, a dedicated platform to showcase authors and artists from the Caribbean and diasporic authors from Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad. Other Latin American and African diaspora voices will also be heard as part of the ReadCaribbean.

Haitian-American award-winning author Edwidge Danticat is among the event's headliners, and she's a National Book Award finalist. She is scheduled to appear during the "Evenings With" series, Nov. 15–20, as part of the broader author roster. Her award-winning novels include 'Untwine,' 'Krik Krak,' 'Behind the Mountains,' and 'Claire of the Sea Light.'

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Danticat's parents migrated to the U.S. when she was young. She began writing at age nine and continued after immigrating, using storytelling to navigate cultural transition. Danticat earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French literature from Barnard College and an MFA in creative writing from Brown University.



Haitian-American award-winning author Edwidge Danticat is among the event's headliners, and she's a National Book Award finalist. She is scheduled to appear during the "Evenings With" series, Nov. 15–20, as part of the broader author roster. *(Photo courtesy of Facebook)*

Her award-winning works include the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Brother, I'm Dying, the Neustadt International Prize, the St. Louis Literary Award, the Vilcek Prize, and the PEN/Malamud Award and PEN/Nabokov Award in 2026. Danticat is also Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Professor of the Humanities, African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University.

Other authors scheduled to appear at the Miami Book Fair include Margaret Atwood (The Handmaid's Tale and Bodily Harm) Pulitzer Prize winner Colson Whitehead (The Underground RailRoad), Tony Shalhoub (We Thought they will Never Leave), Bonnie Garmus (2026 Peck & Peck), Marlon James (John Crow's Devil), and four newly announced National Book Award finalists.

For more information on the Miami Book Fair, call 305-237-3258 or email wbookfair#mdc.edu.

✹

Caribbean Today

Miami Office:
9020 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33157
Tel: (305) 238-2868
Email: editor@caribbeantoday.com

West Palm Beach Office:
(By Appointment Only)
5840 Corporate Way, Suite 250
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 363-7838

www.caribbeantoday.com
Send ads to:
sales@caribbeantoday.com

Vol. 37, Number 12 • NOV. 2026

PETER A WEBLEY
Publisher
publisher@caribbeantoday.com

FELICIA J. PERSAUD
Editor
news@newsamericasnow.com

BRANDON WEBLEY
Web Copy Editor
editor@caibbeantoday.com

LORNA ASENCOR
Accounting Manager
accounts@caribbeantoday.com

HYACINTH LEIBA
Account Executive
hyacinth@caribbeantoday.com

SABRINA G. ALEXANDER
Graphic Design
sabrina@gocreateart.design

Opinions expressed by editors and writers are not necessarily those of the publisher. Caribbean Today, an independent newsmagazine, is published every month by Caribbean Publishing & Services, Inc. Caribbean Today is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. To guarantee return, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Articles appearing in Caribbean Today may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

The Whitening Of America's Refugee Policy: Who Gets To Be Saved?



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, the United States admitted 16,292 refugees. Of those, 16,287 came from South Africa. Just five came from Afghanistan.

Five. Not five thousand. Five. Axios journalist Josephine Walker reported those astonishing figures, citing U.S. State Department refugee admissions data. They reveal something profoundly troubling about the direction of America's refugee policy under President Donald Trump.

A program established to offer protection to people fleeing persecution across the world has been redirected almost exclusively toward white South Africans. So, I have a question: Is America still offering refuge to the persecuted, or has race become a determining factor in who gets rescued?

Consider the contrast. In fiscal year 2024, the United States admitted 100,060 refugees from countries around the world. In fiscal year 2026, admissions fell to 16,292, with more than 99.9 percent coming from one country.

And this was no accidental imbalance. The Trump administration initially set a refugee ceiling of 7,500, then more than doubled it to 17,500 in May to accommodate additional South African Afrikaners.

For fiscal year 2027, the administration has again set a ceiling of 17,500, with its presidential determination explicitly stating that it will allocate admissions primarily to Afrikaners from South Africa. That is not speculation. It is written government policy.

The administration argues that white Afrikaners face racial discrimination, threats, and persecution in post-apartheid South Africa. The White House says their resettlement reflects humanitarian concern.

Certainly, no individual should be denied protection because they are white. Anyone facing genuine persecution deserves a fair assessment of their circumstances. But the sweeping claims of a white genocide in South Africa have been rejected by the South African government and challenged by independent researchers. Crime and violence exist in South Africa, but that does not establish a campaign of genocide against white farmers.

And even if some Afrikaners qualify individually for refugee protection, why should nearly every available refugee admission be reserved for people from their country?

What about Sudanese families fleeing war? Congolese families displaced by violence? Haitians escaping armed gangs and political instability? Afghans who assisted American forces and remain vulnerable to retaliation? Are their lives somehow less worthy of protection?

This is where the numbers become impossible to ignore. The United States has not simply reduced refugee admissions. It has made an extraordinary choice about which population will receive the limited places that remain.

And for Black immigrants, particularly those from Africa and the Caribbean, that choice raises difficult questions about race, belonging, and whose suffering America recognizes.

There is another contradiction. While the administration is welcoming thousands of white South Africans through the refugee program, it is simultaneously tightening protections and reviewing the status of refugees already admitted to the United States.

According to an Associated Press report, a new policy reduces the time certain refugees have to contest termination of their status from 30 days to just 10.

Imagine arriving in America after fleeing persecution, believing you have found safety, only to discover that your protection may now be reconsidered. Meanwhile, another group receives an expedited pathway to refuge.

The Refugee Act of 1980 established a system to respond to humanitarian crises and protect people facing persecution. It was not meant to make one nationality the near-exclusive beneficiary of American compassion.

Yet the fiscal year 2026 numbers tell a remarkable story. Sixteen thousand, two hundred and eighty-seven refugees from South Africa. Five from Afghanistan. And virtually none from the many other countries experiencing displacement, violence and persecution.

The question is not whether white South Africans deserve protection. The question is why America's doors seem so wide open for them while remaining effectively closed to almost everyone else.

If humanitarian need is truly the standard, then why does America's refugee policy now look so overwhelmingly white? And when did a refugee's color become more important than the circumstances that forced them to flee?

Felicia J. Persaud is the founder and publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, the only daily syndicated newswire and digital platform dedicated exclusively to Caribbean Diaspora and Black immigrant news across the Americas.

Just Don't Say It



TONY ROBINSON

If we can't be true to ourselves and speak what's on our minds, who can? But sometimes it's best not to say what's on your mind, because it can have dire consequences. Let's face it, some things are best left unsaid, and even if you have the urge to share past events or activities with someone else, it's best that you don't do it, for just like a boomerang, it may just come back to strike you in the back of your head.

Did I say strike you? It may very well come back to bite you on the butt, like a rabid dog. Even so, despite the consequences, it's often hard to suppress the urge to tell people what happened to you, or what you may have done. This is heightened even more when you become relaxed around the person and even more so when alcohol enters the picture.

I'm sure you've heard people say, "I have to tell you this, or I'm going to burst." You may also have heard the little ditty, "Can you keep a secret, keep it in your mind?" But remember, loose lips sink ships, a saying about sailors during wartime who would blab military positions after a few drinks.

They say a secret is only secure when only one person knows it. Some people have a burning desire to share dark secrets with their best friend. I guess it's human nature. But beware: every best friend has a best friend, and that's how the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

VIEWPOINT

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

The Day The Money Stops - Antigua and Barbuda's Test of Economic Foresight

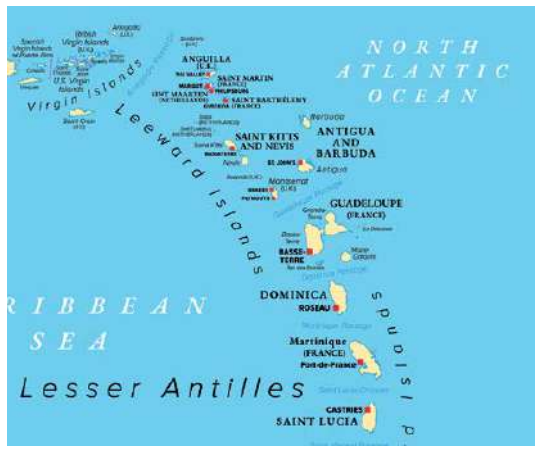
BY DR. ISAAC NEWTON

On June 25, 2026, the European Commission formally asked Antigua and Barbuda to phase out its Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) by June 1, 2028. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has since raised the prospect of suspending the programme as early as November 12 to protect visa-free access to Europe. The country now faces an urgent economic question. Has CIP revenue built an economy capable of sustaining itself, or has dependence on that income grown faster than the development of alternatives? The programme has helped finance public services, infrastructure, and disaster recovery. Those contributions matter. So does the need to prepare for a future in which this revenue may decline sharply or disappear.

The government should publish a clear account of CIP revenue, how it has been spent, and what lasting economic value it has created. It should disclose how much the public finances depend on these receipts, which essential services they support, and how an abrupt suspension would affect the national budget. It should also explain the safeguards and contingency plans already in place. International policies change. Investment flows fluctuate. Sound economic management anticipates these risks and prepares alternatives before they become emergencies. The true measure of revenue is not simply what it pays for today, but what it enables a country to sustain tomorrow.

PLAN TO BROADEN THE ECONOMIC BASE

Antigua and Barbuda needs a funded, measurable plan to broaden its economic base. Tourism remains important, but renewable energy, the blue economy, digital services, agriculture, and locally owned businesses also offer opportunities. Each requires investment, skilled workers, reliable infrastructure, and market access. The government should set clear targets, assign responsibility, publish annual results, and identify the sectors best positioned to generate sustainable employment and income. Young people and small businesses must have meaningful opportunities to participate. Regional cooperation can strengthen Caribbean negotiations with Europe, but each country must also take responsibility for its own economic future. Diversification succeeds through sustained investment and execution, not announcements alone.



The government must protect Antigua and Barbuda's international standing through credible safeguards, sound administration, and sustained diplomacy. It must also prepare for a future in which CIP revenue shrinks or disappears. That means securing alternative income, protecting essential services, and investing in industries that create lasting value. Citizens deserve transparent decisions, measurable progress, and an honest account of the results. A generation's prosperity depends on more than the wealth its leaders collect. It depends on the foundations they leave behind. Antigua and Barbuda must turn today's revenue into tomorrow's opportunity so future generations inherit an economy that can sustain their ambitions, protect their dignity, and expand their choices.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Isaac Newton is a leadership strategist, governance scholar, and author specializing in institutional excellence, ethical leadership, and human development. Educated at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Oakwood University, Princeton, Columbia, and Harvard, he writes on leadership, governance, and the development of people and institutions. He is the author of Fix It Preacher, Face Life Squarely, and Intimate Intimacy, and co-author of Steps to Good Governance, Daring to Hope, When Nations Kneel, and The Belief Code.

- NewsAmericasNow.com

Go First Class with CT



❑Yes, send me 1 year (12 issues) of Caribbean Today

for: ❑ $50(US) First Class ❑ Payment Enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make check or Money Order payable to Caribbean Today, and mail to:

9020 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33157

Caribbean Today

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

secret goes viral, long before social media even existed.

Sometimes a secret burns so hot it can't wait to be released, ready to erupt like a volcano and spew molten lava all over the environment. This has caused many relationship problems, where couples have learned the hard way that some things are best left unsaid. There is a gender irony or double standard here, bordering on hypocrisy, for if the man had divulged that he had a fling with his wife's sister or best friend, it wouldn't seem so serious, at least in most cases. Women have more to lose over things that shouldn't be said than men do, and that's just the way it is. That's why women tend to downplay their romantic history.

Men have said that they would never marry a woman who had more than five relationships in her lifetime. There is no statute of limitations on things that should be left unsaid either. A news story about this Italian couple, married for over sixty years. In a moment of guilt, remorse, madness, the wife unburdened herself by telling her husband that shortly after they got married she had a brief affair with their neighbor. Despite being married for over sixty years, and being in their late 80s, her husband divorced her.

Wives often leave things unsaid, while many men just can't keep their mouths shut.

Just Don't Say It



What about external parties; should they also leave things unsaid that relate to the couple? What if you knew that your best friend's wife was having an affair with her boss, or had an affair a long time ago; should you tell him, or should it be left unsaid?

Men tend to form an iron shield and protect each other, while women cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war. Plus, many men leave things unsaid for another reason: the boomerang effect that I mentioned earlier. Men have said that, in a moment of vulnerability, they confided in their woman that they had apprehensions or fears about something or the other.

They thought that they did the right thing by unburdening their soul and entrusting someone near and dear to them about their feelings, until years down the line, during a heated argument, she took that same thing that he told her and dashed it right in his face, calling him weak. There are so many other things that should be left unsaid; keep them under wraps and take them to the grave.

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.

Mr. Vegas, Chinna Smith Among Reggae Greats Honored By Jamaica

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

On October 19th, happiness replaced gloom as Jamaica's music fraternity recognized several members for their contributions to reggae at the annual National Honors and Awards ceremony at King's House in Kingston.

The recipients were guitarist Earl "Chinna" Smith, producers Robert Livingston and Mikie Bennett, deejay Mr. Vegas, and singer Stranger Cole (posthumously), who were awarded the Order of Distinction, Jamaica's sixth-highest honor. Percussionists Norman "Bongo Herman" Davis and Lawrence "Larry" McDonald; Carlyle Palmer, co-founder of Jet Star Records in the United Kingdom, and Shirley Findley-Willis of gospel group The Grace Thrillers, received the Badge of Honor for Meritorious Service.

The 89-year-old McDonald has toured and recorded with American blues musician Taj Mahal and firebrand singer Gil Scott-Heron. He spoke about being recognized by Jamaica after seven decades as a musician. "I was kinda surprised, but I won't tell a lie ... I won't say I didn't think I deserved some kind of recognition, but I wasn't expecting it. You see, when you are a conga player, you don't expect very much," he said.

Mr. Vegas (real name Clifford Smith) was cited for a career that started in the early 1990s. It has produced many hit songs, including Heads High and Hot Gal Today.

"This is just a reflective time for me because I have never dreamt of really being here collecting such a prestigious award," said Mr. Vegas. Known in reggae circles as Melchezidek, Smith is arguably reggae's most recorded musician. The 71-year-old guitarist started his career in the early 1970s and has recorded and toured with Bob Marley, Jimmy Cliff, Dennis Brown, Ziggy Marley, The Melody Makers, and Sizzla.

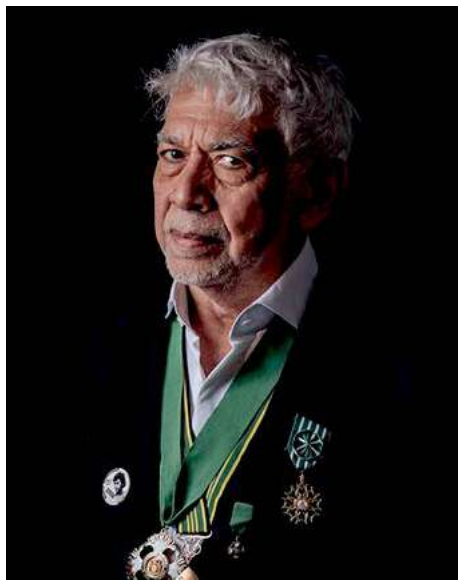
He has played on seminal reggae songs and albums, including Westbound Train and Cassandra by Dennis Brown; War Ina Babylon (Max Romeo); Move Outa Babylon (Johnny Clarke); Rastaman Vibration (Bob Marley); and Marcus Garvey (Burning Spear). Livingston and Bennett were major players in the 1990s, when dancehall music made inroads into the American pop market. Livingston was pivotal to Shaggy's early success with songs like Boombastic and In The Summertime, while Bennett co-produced and co-wrote songs such as Mr. Loverman and Housecall by Shabba Ranks.



Dancehall/Reggae Artiste, Clifford "Mr. Vegas" Smith was among the national heroes honored at the annual National Honors and Awards ceremony at King's House in Kingston on Oct. 19th. ***(JIS News/Contributed image)***

Jamaican Jazz Legend Monty Alexander Receives Prestigious French Cultural Honor

Jamaican-born jazz pianist Monty Alexander has received one of France's distinguished cultural honors, adding another international recognition to a musical career spanning more than six decades.



Dr. Monty Alexander, C.D., O.J., recipient of France's Officer Of The Order of Arts and Letters distinction. ***(Photo credit: Eric Garault)***

Alexander, 82, received the Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters distinction on October 6 during a performance at Paris's New Morning jazz club. The recognition coincided with the release of his latest album, A Jamaican in Paris, which debuted October 2 on PeeWee! Records.

Established in 1957 and administered by France's Ministry of Culture, the Order of Arts and Letters recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts and literature.

Alexander's new album celebrates his Jamaican heritage and American jazz influences, featuring musicians Jason Brown on drums, Luke Sellick on bass, and Bobby Thomas Jr. on percussion. Its selections include "Marcus Garvey/So What," "Come Fly With Me" and "What's Going On."

Born in Kingston on June 6, 1944, Alexander began playing piano as a child and performed in local clubs by his teens. He later moved to the United States, where he established himself on the international jazz scene.

In 1963, Frank Sinatra helped Alexander secure a spot at Jilly's nightclub in New York. He subsequently collaborated with jazz greats including Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Brown, Milt Jackson and Sonny Rollins.

His distinctive musical style combines American jazz with Jamaican ska, reggae and other Caribbean rhythms.

Alexander has appeared on more than 75 recordings, including the Grammy-nominated Harlem Kingston Express: Live!, and has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival 23 times.

His previous honors include Jamaica's Commander in the Order of Distinction in 2000, an honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of the West Indies in 2018, and the Order of Jamaica in 2022.

The pianist is scheduled to continue performing across North America, with upcoming engagements in Chicago from November 5-8, New Jersey on November 22, Cambridge, Massachusetts, on December 10, Toronto on December 13, and Washington, D.C., from December 26-31.

For more information, visit ***montyalexander.com.***



Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

50 Years Later, Peter Tosh's Call To 'Legalize It' Still Resonates



Niambe Tosh, daughter of Peter Tosh, with Mark Golding, president of the People's National Party (right) and Ryan Bailey, an organizer of Tosh Week, at the event's October 14, 2026 launch in Kingston, Jamaica. *(Contributed image)*

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

ifty years ago, Columbia Records released Legalize It, an album by Peter Tosh that boldly called for the legalization of marijuana, or ganja, as it is known in Jamaica, the Rastafarian singer-songwriter's homeland.

On October 19, his 82nd birthday, fans of the fiery artist made the annual pilgrimage to Belmont, Westmoreland, where he was born. They paid homage to the self-proclaimed Stepping Razor who was murdered at his Kingston home in September 1987.

At the launch of Tosh Week five days earlier in Kingston, Tosh's daughter Niambe spoke about the enduring message of Legalize It. Mark Golding, leader of the People's National Party (PNP), Jamaica's parliamentary opposition, also addressed that event.

As Jamaica's minister of justice in early 2015, Golding led the push to decriminalize ganja. Under current laws, people found with small quantities of ganja are exempt from prosecution, and limited cultivation is legal. Rastafarians - who once bore the brunt of prosecution for ganja use - are also allowed to use the weed for religious purposes.

Golding believes Tosh would be pleased with how far Jamaica has come on ganja. "I think Peter would have been pleased to see there has been progress and anxious to see more progress. And I'm looking forward to the opportunities to ensure more progress," he said.

A music enthusiast, Golding was a teenager when Legalize It was released. It wasn't just the music that made an impact on him. "The album cover, it was striking. It had Peter Tosh in a herb field with a pipe in his mouth. And, of course, Legalize It is a powerful piece of music," he said.

In early October, Rolling Stone Magazine named Legalize It #35 on its list of The 76 Best Albums of 1976. While strides have been made in Jamaica, Golding says more needs to be done for ganja to be legalized in Jamaica. He has proposed that Rastafarians have more input in the legislative process and that the growing ganja industry be accessible to small farmers.

Peter Tosh was an original member of The Wailers, along with Bob Marley and Bunny Livingston (later known as Bunny Wailer). Tosh and two of his friends were murdered by gunmen 39 years ago. His No Nuclear War won the Best Reggae Album category at the 1988 Grammy Awards.

Jamaican Designer Courtney Washington Opens New Fashion House In Brooklyn



Jamaican designer Courtney Washington and Selma Jackson at the opening of his Courtney Washington Fashion House at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY. *(Contributed image)*

BY LYNDON TAYLOR
Edited By
Felicia J. Persaud

Jamaican-born fashion designer Courtney Washington is bringing a fresh shopping experience to Brooklyn, NY, with the opening of his Courtney Washington Fashion House at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Located at 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 200B, the new boutique offers an intimate setting where customers can explore Washington's collections in a space designed to feel like an extension of their own wardrobes.

"This new space is the new look, new feel, new groove for the brand," Washington said. The location is temporary while renovations continue at Restoration Plaza, but Washington has used the opportunity to create a personalized shopping environment that reflects his approach to fashion.

"When you come in, you feel like you're in your wardrobe, so it's set up purposely for that," he explained. Trained at Pratt Institute and the Fashion Institute of Technology, Washington has built his brand around designs that celebrate femininity, individuality, and timeless elegance.

His latest venture places that vision within one of Brooklyn's longstanding cultural and commercial landmarks. For more than five decades, Restoration Plaza has served as a center for community development, business, and cultural activity in Central Brooklyn. Washington's arrival adds another creative enterprise to the historic location, connecting his fashion brand with the neighborhood's entrepreneurial and cultural traditions.

Fashion Across Generations

Beyond opening his boutique, Washington recently partnered with Age Friendly Central Brooklyn for its annual Fashion Show for Seniors, celebrating personal style and creativity among older adults. The event attracted what organizers described as its largest turnout to date, bringing together participants and supporters for an afternoon of fashion and community engagement.

"It was an emotional event as everyone had such a great time," Washington said. The collaboration reflected his belief that fashion should be enjoyed across generations, giving older adults opportunities to express their personalities and confidence through clothing.

For Washington, the new fashion house and his community involvement complement his creative journey: designing clothing that makes women feel confident while keeping fashion approachable and enjoyable. As he welcomes customers to the Brooklyn location, the designer is encouraging visitors to embrace style as part of everyday life.

"Remember, life is fabulous. Life is groovy, so keep enjoying it. Life is filled with fashion, so come in and shop," Washington said. The Courtney Washington Fashion House is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street, Suite 200B, Brooklyn, New York.

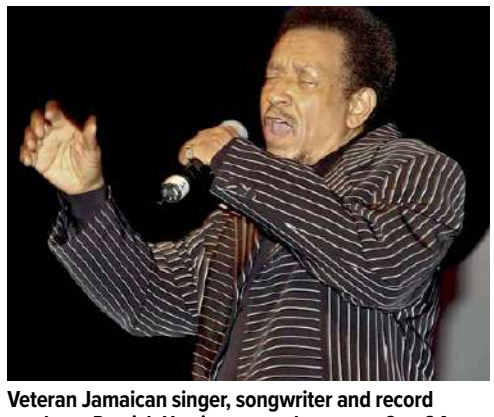
Jamaican Music Pioneer Derrick Harriott Dies At 87

Veteran Jamaican singer, songwriter, and record producer Derrick Harriott, whose contributions helped shape the evolution of ska, rocksteady, and reggae music, has passed away at age 87. Harriott died at his home in Jamaica shortly after 1 a.m. on October 24th, following a period of illness, according to Dorrel Mattocks, operator of the Derrick Harriott Music Store in St. Andrew.

"He was sick and was in and out of hospital," Mattocks told The Gleaner, confirming that the musician had recently been discharged.

Born in Kingston on February 6, 1939, Harriott began his musical journey in the late 1950s and emerged as an important figure during one of Jamaican popular music's most transformative periods. He co-founded the vocal group The Jiving Juniors in 1958 and recorded early hits such as Lollipop Girl and Over the River.

Harriott launched his solo career in 1962 and established the Crystal record label, releasing recordings including I Care and his signature hit, The Loser. Beyond his success as a performer, Harriott became an influential producer, working with some of Jamaica's most celebrated recording artistes, including Dennis Brown, Big Youth, The Ethiopians, Keith & Tex and The Kingstonians.



Veteran Jamaican singer, songwriter and record producer Derrick Harriott passed away on Oct. 24, 2026.

His work helped bridge Jamaica's musical transition from ska to rocksteady and reggae, and his production also helped develop early reggae and dub. His contributions included recordings from the legendary King Tubby's studio, an important center in the evolution of Jamaican dub music.

Harriott's influence spanned generations of Jamaican performers and producers, helping lay a musical foundation that would eventually reach audiences worldwide. In recognition of his contributions to Jamaica's cultural heritage, he received the national Order of Distinction in 2009 and the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time.

A Sweet Taste Of The Caribbean: 23 Bakers Bring Holiday Cake Traditions To South Florida

From the rich, rum-soaked black cakes of Guyana and Jamaica to buttery golden rum cakes flavored with coconut and pumpkin spice, the Caribbean's holiday baking traditions will take center stage in South Florida this November.

The fifth annual Rum Cake & Caribbean Black Cake Festival returns Sunday, November 15, bringing together 23 bakers from Caribbean countries and territories for an afternoon of food, music, cultural performances, and holiday shopping. The indoor event, scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. at The Venue Fort Lauderdale in Wilton Manors, is expected to attract more than 1,000 guests.

Organized by Island SPACE Caribbean Museum and Caribbean Professionals Network, the festival celebrates the diverse recipes and traditions that have made rum cake and black cake staples of Caribbean holiday celebrations.

A Taste Of Caribbean Heritage

The festival's Hall of Bakers, presented by Barbados, will showcase cakes reflecting the culinary influences of the English-, French-, Dutch- and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Visitors can sample traditional dark fruitcakes alongside lighter rum cakes featuring flavors such as coconut, pumpkin spice, and bourbon. Even the traditional black cake varies across the region. Guyanese recipes may incorporate preserved star fruit, while other versions feature cherry brandy, stout, rum, wine and distinctive spice combinations.



Guyanese bakers engage with American guests in a delicious cultural exchange. *(Photo by RJ Deed/Content Factory)*

Calibe Thompson, executive director of Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, said organizers have expanded the festival's representation to highlight the diversity of Caribbean baking. "Whether you grew up with these traditions or are discovering them for the first time, we want you to learn, explore, indulge and enjoy," Thompson said. "You can discover something about your Caribbean neighbors, try flavors from places you've never visited and perhaps find inspiration for your next Caribbean vacation."

More Than Cake

Beyond the desserts, visitors can sample regional cuisine from vendors offering Caribbean soups, island rolls, macaroni dishes, and grilled stuffed lobster, among other specialties. A premium Rum Room for guests 21 and older will feature tastings of Caribbean spirits from countries including Belize, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti. The Caribbean Holiday Marketplace will offer gifts, art, and specialty products, giving visitors an opportunity to shop for the upcoming holiday season. Cultural performances will also highlight the region's distinctive celebrations.

Brukins Entertainment will present Jamaican Jonkonnu, while Island Groove Entertainment will showcase Bahamian Junkanoo. Sikan Afro-Cuban Dance Project will perform Puerto Rican bomba and plena, and Haitian lantern-making activities will introduce visitors to another Caribbean holiday tradition.

Music and entertainment will include Melo Groove Steel Orchestra, DJ Bigg G and festival host Raul Blaze. Blaze said the event offers an opportunity to celebrate the similarities and differences among Caribbean communities. "What excites me most about this festival is the opportunity to celebrate that distinctiveness through something as simple and meaningful as food," he said. "I want people to come, laugh, learn something about each other's cultures, and leave feeling a little more connected."

A Growing South Florida Tradition

The festival began in 2022 with just 25 guests at Island SPACE Caribbean Museum. Attendance grew to approximately 300 in 2023 and 2024 before reaching about 700 in 2025. Organizers now anticipate more than 1,000 attendees for the fifth-anniversary celebration. The Broward County Cultural Division and The Venue Fort Lauderdale support the event.

Event Information

The Rum Cake & Caribbean Black Cake Festival takes place Sunday, November 15, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at The Venue Fort Lauderdale, 2345 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors. General admission is $30 through November 14 and $40 at the door. Admission for children ages 4 to 12 is $10, while children 3 and younger enter free.

Premium Rum Room admission, available to guests 21 and older, is $75 in advance or $85 at the door and includes general admission. Tickets and additional information are available at ***islandspacefl.org/cakefest26.***

Haitian-Owned La Paix Bakery Expands With New Miami Shores Café

For more than two decades, La Paix Bakery has brought the flavors of Haiti to South Florida through its traditional breads, savory pastries, sweets, and home-style meals. Now, the family-owned business is expanding with a new bakery and café in Miami Shores.

Founded in Miramar in 2005, La Paix Bakery celebrated the grand opening of its newest location at 9636 NE Second Avenue on Tuesday, October 27th, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. in partnership with the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce.

The celebration included complimentary branded bags and food samples, giving visitors an opportunity to experience some of the bakery's signature Haitian offerings. The new 3,200-square-foot location combines bakery production with a retail café featuring indoor and outdoor seating. Its expanded menu includes breakfast sandwiches, traditional Haitian fritay, or fried appetizers, and daily hot meals. The owners also plan to introduce custom cakes and a domestic shipping service.

A Family Legacy Built On Food

Yolande Derosier, the late Lucien Nozile, and Nadeige Sterlin established La Paix Bakery to celebrate Haitian food traditions while serving the growing Caribbean community in South Florida. The Miami Shores location is led by co-owners Derosier, Sterlin, and Natasha Nozile-Janvier. Over the years, the family's influence has extended beyond its own business. Derosier and Nozile helped mentor and launch seven other Haitian bakeries across Florida and Georgia. For Sterlin, the expansion represents another chapter in a family story shaped by immigration, entrepreneurship, and cultural pride.

"My mother and step-father worked tirelessly as immigrants to achieve their dream," Sterlin said. "With everything happening in Haiti today, we want La Paix to remain a welcoming space where the diaspora and local community can feel connected to Haitian culture through our food."



Yolande Derosier, the late Lucien Nozile, and Nadeige Sterlin established La Paix Bakery to celebrate Haitian food traditions while serving the growing Caribbean community in South Florida. *(Contributed image)*

S terlin said the Miami Shores location will also make the bakery more accessible to customers in Miami-Dade County while introducing Haitian cuisine to a broader audience.

Expanding Beyond The Bakery Counter

The new facility will also increase La Paix Bakery's production capacity, supporting plans to expand distribution to grocery stores, supermarkets, and other retail outlets. The expansion reflects the company's ambitions to bring traditional Haitian baked goods and prepared foods to more customers beyond its individual bakery locations.

The Miami Shores café will operate Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, visit www.lapaixbakery.com or call 305-364-5467.

Can We Talk?

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.

If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and...dress your company well in...

Caribbean Today — Celebrating 35 Years
We cover your world
For information, please call 305-238-2868, or fax 305-252-7843



Peter A. Webley
Publisher

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

ACA Open Enrollment Begins Amid Higher Costs And New Restrictions For Immigrants

Millions of Americans preparing to purchase or renew health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) face another challenging enrollment season, with higher premiums, stricter verification requirements, and new restrictions affecting some lawfully present immigrants.

Open enrollment for 2027 coverage began on November 1 in Florida and most other states, as consumers confront rising insurance costs after enhanced federal premium subsidies expired at the end of 2025.

Although income-based financial assistance remains available to many households, the enhanced subsidies that previously helped reduce monthly premiums have not been renewed. Insurance premiums are projected to rise by about 15 percent in 2027, adding to affordability concerns after substantial increases this year.

New Restrictions Affect Immigrants

Among the most significant changes are federal restrictions eliminating ACA premium subsidy eligibility for several categories of lawfully present immigrants.

Those affected include certain refugees, asylum recipients, temporary protected status holders, H-1B visa holders, and individuals with pending green-card applications.

Under the new provisions, green-card holders, certain Cuban and Haitian immigrants, and citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau remain eligible for subsidies, subject to other program requirements.

The changes could create additional financial challenges for immigrant families already struggling with rising living expenses and health care costs.

Stricter Enrollment Requirements

Consumers using insurance agents or brokers through the federal marketplace will also face additional identity verification measures intended to prevent fraudulent enrollments and unauthorized changes to coverage.

New requirements include one-time authorization codes that let consumers approve an agent's involvement in their applications.



Some applicants, including first-time enrollees and those switching agents, may face additional identity checks.

Federal officials say the measures are necessary to combat enrollment fraud, while consumer advocates warn that the added requirements could discourage eligible individuals from obtaining coverage.

Restrictions on newly registered insurance brokers could also reduce the number of agents available to assist consumers during the enrollment period.

What Florida Residents Should Know

Florida residents purchase ACA marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov, with open enrollment scheduled to run from November 1, 2026, through January 15, 2027.

Consumers seeking coverage beginning January 1 must generally select a plan by December 15 and pay their first premium. Those enrolling between December 16 and January 15 will generally have coverage beginning February 1.

Health insurance experts advise consumers not to automatically renew existing plans without reviewing their options. Monthly premiums, deductibles, prescription coverage, physician networks, and out-of-pocket expenses can change significantly from one year to the next.

The maximum annual out-of-pocket limit for marketplace plans is also increasing to $12,000 for individuals and $24,000 for families in 2027, although some lower-income households qualify for reduced limits.

Consumers are encouraged to update their household and income information, compare available plans, and begin the enrollment process early to avoid delays.

More information is available at HealthCare.gov.

- Rewritten from KFF Health News

Jamaican-Born Healthcare Veteran Expands Access To Care In South Florida

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

When Dr. Rosemarie Lewis officially opened Total Healthcare Services & Wellness in Coconut Creek on September 19, the Jamaican healthcare professional described it as a "dream fulfilled."

The multi-faceted facility offers treatment for debilitating illnesses, including mental health conditions. Lewis has been involved in healthcare for 40 years.

Along with her husband, Albert Lewis, and daughter, Amaya, the ceremony was attended by key figures in South Florida's Jamaican diaspora. "This is deeply personal. As a nurse, educator, and mental health advocate, I've seen too many people suffer in silence. I wanted to create a place where people feel seen, heard, and cared for - mind, body, and spirit," said Lewis.

It took two years to establish Total Healthcare Services & Wellness. Its five-member staff is qualified in mental health counseling, primary care, wellness education, and preventive care. Lewis serves as lead provider, overseeing care, mentoring staff, and ensuring "every patient receives compassionate, quality service."

Lewis stated that while Total Healthcare Services & Wellness is open to all demographics, South Florida's large West Indian populace will be its main market. "It represents hope, healing, and access to care for our community," she said.

In 2020, the Caribbean Diaspora Healthy Nutrition Outreach Project reported that there are "disproportionate rates of illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and cancer" in South Florida's West Indian community.

That study, funded by Nova Southeastern University's Quality of Life Grant, drew on interviews with people from Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago living in Broward County.

Born in rural Manchester parish, central Jamaica, Lewis has been a pivotal member of South Florida's West Indian diaspora for many years. She moved to the region from New York City in 1985, three years after migrating from Jamaica.



Dr. Rosemarie Lewis (left) and Broward County Commissioner Hazelle P. Rogers at the opening of Total Healthcare Services & Wellness in Coconut Creek in September.

Lewis initially worked in the corporate sector but changed careers in the late 1980s when she became a registered nurse.

Lewis is an associate professor of pathophysiology and mental health. She also founded Rose's Garden of Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on creating opportunities in healthcare, education, and youth advocacy.

Caribbean Moves Toward Cross-Border Digital Health Records

Caribbean patients seeking medical treatment in another country could eventually have their health records securely shared across borders under a regional initiative aimed at improving patient safety, reducing duplicated medical tests and strengthening healthcare cooperation.

Health ministers and senior officials from CARICOM member states advanced discussions on the proposed Pan-American Highway for Digital Health (PH4H) during the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) 63rd Directing Council meeting in Washington, D.C.

The initiative would allow participating countries to exchange health information through secure, standardized digital systems, potentially making it easier for patients to receive continuous care when traveling for work, education or specialized medical treatment.

The discussions followed a decision at the 53rd Council for Human and Social Development meeting to establish a CARICOM Digital Health Strategy. "Digital transformation is not simply about the technology; it's about transforming health systems to better serve people," said PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa.

He said cross-border information sharing could improve continuity of care while helping health authorities detect emerging threats and coordinate responses during public health emergencies.

Currently, medical records across the Caribbean are frequently stored in separate national or healthcare facility systems, complicating referrals and treatment when patients move between countries.

CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General for Human and Social Development Alison Drayton warned that patients face unnecessary risks when essential medical information cannot follow them. "Essential health information, if it doesn't follow, will disrupt continuity of care, complicate referrals, duplicate tests at no small cost, and create risks in emergencies," Drayton said.

The initiative, supported by PAHO and the Inter-American Development Bank, would establish common standards for exchanging health information while addressing cybersecurity, patient privacy and data protection. Several Caribbean health ministers outlined national priorities during the discussions.

Among the next steps are developing shared governance arrangements, reviewing cybersecurity and data protection standards, and exploring broader use of standardized digital health certificates. Officials also emphasized that digital health systems must improve access for vulnerable populations rather than deepen existing healthcare inequalities. The initiative forms part of wider efforts to strengthen regional healthcare cooperation and support the movement of people across CARICOM countries.

From Bocelli To Beachside Adventures: What's Ahead In The Bahamas

From a New Year's Eve concert featuring internationally acclaimed tenor Andrea Bocelli to culinary experiences, sporting events, and holiday entertainment, The Bahamas is gearing up for a busy winter travel season.

Visitors planning an island getaway over the coming months will find a range of activities across Nassau, Paradise Island, Grand Bahama and Abaco, with events catering to food enthusiasts, sports lovers, families and music fans.



For travelers seeking a quieter Bahamian experience, the country's more remote islands offer a different kind of escape.

Culinary Experiences On Grand Bahama

Grand Bahama Island will host TASTE of Grand Bahama Island on November 14 at the Xquisite Catamaran Center. This new luxury culinary event engages all five senses, offering visitors another way to experience the island's food culture.

Tickets are expected to go on sale soon.

Sports And Island Hospitality In Abaco

The Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina will host its second annual pickleball tournament from November 13 to 15. The three-day event will feature competitive matches for players of different skill levels, expert clinics, a kickoff cocktail reception and wine-pairing dinners.

The tournament combines recreational sports with the resort's marina setting, offering participants opportunities to explore the island beyond the courts.

Holiday Entertainment On Paradise Island

Atlantis Paradise Island is preparing to introduce Pomp, Snow & CIRQUEumstance, a holiday theatrical production running from November 29, 2026, through January 8, 2027.

Based on the book and television special of the same name, the production will feature circus performances, elaborate costumes, and illusions at the Atlantis Theatre. The resort will also welcome Andrea Bocelli for a New Year's Eve concert on December 31.

The performance is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. on the Royal Deck, offering an open-air celebration as visitors prepare to welcome 2027. Concert tickets and accommodation packages are available.

A New Race Weekend In Nassau

Fitness enthusiasts can look ahead to the inaugural Run Bahamas Race Weekend on January 31, 2027. The event will begin at Goodman's Bay at 6 a.m., with race options including a full marathon, half marathon, four-person marathon relay, 10K and the Colors of Courage 5K cancer awareness run.

Participants will follow routes passing several Nassau landmarks, including Rawson Square, Pompey Square, Saunders Beach, Arawak Cay and West Bay Street. Virtual race options will also be available for participants unable to travel to the islands. Registration information is available at runbahamas.net.

Resort Offers And Family Travel

Several Nassau resorts are also offering incentives for extended stays. Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau is promoting a fourth night free with three consecutive paid nights for eligible stays through December 21, 2026.

Rosewood Baha Mar is offering a complimentary fourth night and a daily $100 resort credit on select stays. The Bahamas has also earned recognition from U.S. News & World Report, ranking fifth in its Best Winter Family Vacations list. The publication highlighted the destination's beaches, warm weather, family-friendly resorts, and proximity to the United States.

The ranking adds to the islands' appeal as families consider winter and holiday travel.

Beyond The Resorts

For travelers seeking a quieter Bahamian experience, the country's more remote islands offer a different kind of escape. Ragged Island, one of the southernmost islands in The Bahamas, is known for its secluded beaches, clear waters, bone fishing, and small-community atmosphere. Its only settlement, Duncan Town, has fewer than 100 residents and retains connections to the island's historic salt industry.

Visitors generally reach Ragged Island by boat or charter flight, often using Long Island as a base.

With activities ranging from international concerts and culinary events to outdoor adventures and secluded island escapes, The Bahamas is offering travelers several ways to experience the archipelago this winter. Additional information on events, accommodation packages, and island experiences is available at bahamas.com.

✹

Jamaica Wins 10 Tourism Awards During World Travel Week 2026



Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett (center) accepts the Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board award alongside Director of Tourism Donovan White (right), Tourism Enhancement Fund Executive Director Dr. Carey Wallace (third from left), and representatives of the Jamaica Tourist Board and Ministry of Tourism. *(Contributed image)*

Jamaica captured 10 tourism awards during World Travel Week Jamaica 2026, earning recognition for its attractions, cruise industry, culinary offerings, and overall destination appeal.

The island secured titles including Caribbean's Leading Destination, Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination, and Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board across three award ceremonies held in Jamaica from October 11 to 14.

At the World Travel Awards Caribbean & The Americas Gala Ceremony, held October 11 at Princess Grand Jamaica in Negril, Jamaica received seven awards.

They included Caribbean's Leading Cultural Destination, Caribbean's Leading Destination, Caribbean's Leading Festival & Event Destination, Caribbean's Leading Family Travel Destination, Caribbean's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination and Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination. The Jamaica Tourist Board was also named Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board.

Jamaica added two honors at the World MICE/Cruise/Travel Tech Awards, winning Caribbean's Best MICE Destination and Caribbean's Best Cruise Destination.

The island also won Caribbean's Best Culinary Destination at the World Culinary Awards. The events recognized several Jamaican tourism businesses and attractions.

Half Moon was named Caribbean's Leading Hotel, while GO! Jamaica Travel earned Caribbean's Leading Travel Agency. Sangster International Airport received Caribbean's Leading Airport, Rose Hall Great House Tour was named Caribbean's Leading Tourist Attraction, and Club MoBay won Caribbean's Leading Airport Lounge.

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett, said the awards reflected continued investment in the country's tourism industry and the contributions of businesses and workers.

"These World Travel Awards reflect the strength, diversity and resilience of Jamaica's tourism sector. They recognize not only the excellence of our hotels, attractions and tourism partners, but also the people whose commitment to service continues to shape the visitor experience," Bartlett said.

He added that Jamaica would continue expanding its tourism offerings while working to ensure the industry's growth creates economic opportunities for local communities.

Director of Tourism Donovan White said the recognition demonstrated the range of experiences available to visitors and the contributions of tourism stakeholders across the island.

"We are particularly proud that so many of our tourism partners also shone during World Travel Week. Their recognition across accommodation, attractions, travel services and aviation demonstrates the depth of talent and excellence within our tourism industry," White said.

The latest honors build on Jamaica's performance at the 2025 World Travel Awards, when the country was named Caribbean's Leading Destination, Caribbean's Leading Family Travel Destination and Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board. Jamaica also received the title of World's Leading Family Travel Destination.

The 2026 ceremonies formed part of World Travel Week Jamaica, which brought tourism industry representatives to the island for several days of events recognizing achievements across the Caribbean travel and hospitality sectors.

✹

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

ICE Seeks To Deport Florida-Born Man To Jamaica Despite U.S. Citizenship Evidence, AP Finds

A 39-year-old man with a documented history of serious mental illness has been held in U.S. immigration detention since January and faces deportation to Jamaica, despite evidence that he was born in Florida, according to an investigation by The Associated Press.

Phillip James, who has used several names, remains detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Indiana while his attorneys challenge an order to remove him to Jamaica.

The AP investigation, published October 27, found that James' birth certificate, a decades-old court record and his history of holding a U.S. passport support his family's assertion that he is an American citizen.

The Department of Homeland Security disputes his citizenship, alleging that the birth certificate used to obtain his passport was fraudulent. However, the agency provided AP with no supporting evidence.

According to the investigation, James was born in Orange County, Florida, in 1987 to an American mother and Jamaican father. A 1988 court document independently obtained by AP corroborated identifying information on his birth certificate.

James received a U.S. passport in 2008 and held one for approximately 15 years. His passport was subsequently revoked after he began submitting applications claiming he was born in Jamaica.



Phillip James, who has used several names, remains detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Indiana while his attorneys challenge an order to remove him to Jamaica. ***(AP/ICE image)***

Medical experts who evaluated James diagnosed paranoid schizophrenia and reported that his insistence on Jamaican birth was part of a delusional belief system. Despite those findings, immigration authorities relied on his statements that he was born in Jamaica and entered the United States illegally in 2009.

Jamaican authorities have informed his attorneys that they have no record of his birth or citizenship there, according to court filings reviewed by AP. ICE arrested James following an immigration court hearing in January. An immigration judge ordered his deportation in April.

His attorneys, now representing him through the Bronx Defenders, filed a federal petition seeking his release in August and are appealing the deportation order.

The case has raised questions about how immigration authorities evaluate citizenship claims involving individuals with serious mental illness.

Northwestern University professor Jacqueline Stevens, who has studied wrongful immigration detention, told AP that authorities sometimes accept evidence supporting deportation while dismissing contradictory citizenship records.

DHS maintains that detainees receive due process and denies that ICE detains U.S. citizens. A federal judge in Indiana is expected to rule on James' request for release. Meanwhile, his deportation order remains under appeal.

- Rewritten from the Associated Press report/ NewsAmericasnow.com

ICE Sends Guyanese Accused In 2015 Georgetown Murder Packing

A 39-year-old man with a documented history of serious mental illness has been held in U.S. immigration detention since January and faces deportation to Jamaica, despite evidence that he was born in Florida, according to an investigation by The Associated Press.

Phillip James, who has used several names, remains detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Indiana while his attorneys challenge an order to remove him to Jamaica.

The AP investigation, published October 27, found that James' birth certificate, a decades-old court record and his history of holding a U.S. passport support his family's assertion that he is an American citizen.

The Department of Homeland Security disputes his citizenship, alleging that the birth certificate used to obtain his passport was fraudulent. However, the agency provided AP with no supporting evidence.

According to the investigation, James was born in Orange County, Florida, in 1987 to an American mother and Jamaican father. A 1988 court document independently obtained by AP corroborated identifying information on his birth certificate.

James received a U.S. passport in 2008 and held one for approximately 15 years. His passport was subsequently revoked after he began submitting applications claiming he was born in Jamaica.



Phillip James, who has used several names, remains detained at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Indiana while his attorneys challenge an order to remove him to Jamaica. ***(AP/ICE image)***

Medical experts who evaluated James diagnosed paranoid schizophrenia and reported that his insistence on Jamaican birth was part of a delusional belief system. Despite those findings, immigration authorities relied on his statements that he was born in Jamaica and entered the United States illegally in 2009.

Jamaican authorities have informed his attorneys that they have no record of his birth or citizenship there, according to court filings reviewed by AP. ICE arrested James following an immigration court hearing in January. An immigration judge ordered his deportation in April.

His attorneys, now representing him through the Bronx Defenders, filed a federal petition seeking his release in August and are appealing the deportation order.

The case has raised questions about how immigration authorities evaluate citizenship claims involving individuals with serious mental illness.

Northwestern University professor Jacqueline Stevens, who has studied wrongful immigration detention, told AP that authorities sometimes accept evidence supporting deportation while dismissing contradictory citizenship records.

DHS maintains that detainees receive due process and denies that ICE detains U.S. citizens. A federal judge in Indiana is expected to rule on James' request for release. Meanwhile, his deportation order remains under appeal.

- Rewritten from the Associated Press report/ NewsAmericasnow.com

Supreme Court Refuses To Restore Biden-Era Immigration Rule That Allowed Deportation Cases To Be Paused

The U.S. Supreme Court on October 27 declined to reinstate a Biden-era immigration regulation that let immigration judges temporarily suspend certain deportation proceedings while individuals pursued other forms of legal relief.

In an unsigned order issued October 27, the justices rejected an emergency request from three U.S. cities and an immigrant legal services organization seeking to block a lower court ruling that eliminated the regulation. No justices publicly dissented.

The regulation, adopted in 2024 by the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, permitted immigration judges to use a procedure known as "administrative closure."

Under that process, judges could temporarily remove certain deportation cases from their active calendars without issuing a final decision. This could give immigrants more time to pursue asylum applications or other immigration benefits through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Texas challenged the rule in June, arguing that immigration judges lacked the legal authority to suspend proceedings this way. Shortly after the lawsuit was filed, the Justice Department joined Texas in requesting that a federal judge invalidate the regulation.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor granted the request, striking down the rule and barring the agency from adopting a similar regulation. Baltimore, Maryland; New Haven, Connecticut; Columbus, Ohio; and immigrant legal services organization Centro Legal de la Raza subsequently attempted to intervene in the case to defend the regulation.

The court denied their request, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit declined to suspend the lower court's judgment. The challengers then appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that the agreement between Texas and the federal government improperly eliminated a regulation without the usual administrative review process.

The federal government and Texas opposed their request. The Supreme Court order leaves the lower court judgment in effect while the legal challenge continues.

For immigrants facing removal proceedings, the decision means the 2024 administrative-closure regulation remains unavailable as a basis for temporarily pausing qualifying cases. However, the ruling does not mean every pending deportation case must immediately proceed to removal, as other legal procedures and protections may still apply.

Cayman Islands Golf Star Justin Hastings Headlines 58th Jamaica Open

Cayman Islands golf sensation Justin Hastings will headline a competitive field of more than 70 players when the 58th Jamaica Open Golf Championship tees off at the Tryall Golf Course in Hanover from November 7–10.

The 54-hole tournament will feature some of the region's leading golfers alongside professionals from the United States and Canada, all vying for the US$20,000 winner's prize.

Hastings, who turned professional in July 2025 following a standout collegiate career at San Diego State University, arrives in Jamaica after a historic year for Cayman Islands golf.

He became the first golfer from the Cayman Islands to qualify for the U.S. Open, where he captured Low Amateur honors. He also won the 2025 Latin America Amateur Championship, earning coveted invitations to the Masters Tournament and the Open Championship.

Since joining the professional ranks, Hastings has competed on the PGA Tour Americas and Korn Ferry Tour, gaining valuable experience against some of the sport's rising stars.



Cayman Islands golf sensation Justin Hastings will headline a competitive field at the 58th Jamaica Open Golf Championship in Hanover, Jamaica from November 7–10. ***(CMC image)***

But the Caymanian standout will face a formidable challenge from defending champion Benjamin Martin of Trinidad and Tobago, who returns to Tryall seeking consecutive titles.

Martin claimed the 2024 championship with an impressive seven-under-par 209 over three rounds and will be looking to repeat that performance.

Jamaica's challenge will be spearheaded by former national amateur champion Justin Burrowes, alongside Wesley Brown and Seebert Walker Jr., as the home contingent seeks to keep the coveted title on Jamaican soil.

With a strong international field and several regional contenders chasing the top prize, the 58th Jamaica Open promises four days of high-level competition at one of the Caribbean's premier golf venues.

- Rewritten from CMC

Three-Year-Old Soccer Sensation With Reported Haitian Roots Attracts Jay-Z's Attention

Three-year-old Florida soccer sensation Nevada Pierre, whose father reportedly has Haitian roots, has attracted the attention of entertainment mogul Jay-Z and Roc Nation Sports after a dispute at a youth soccer game went viral.

According to journalist Loren LoRosa of The Breakfast Club, Roc Nation plans to send the youngster and his family to Spain in December to help him develop his soccer skills. Nevada, who lives in Orlando, gained national attention after police were called to a youth league game he played in at Winter Park on October 24.

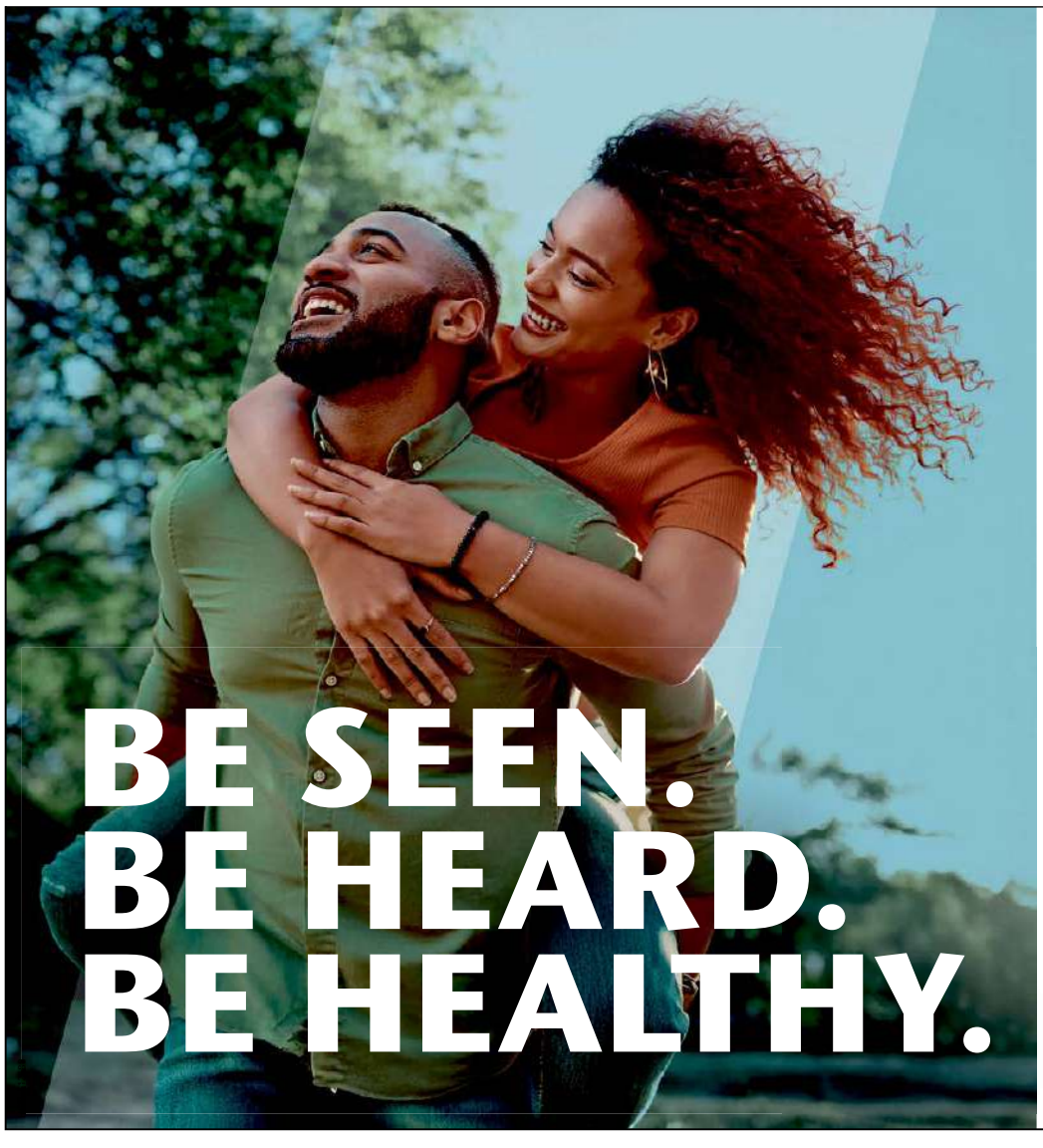

Three-year-old Florida soccer sensation Nevada Pierre has gained national attention after police were called to a youth league game in Winter Park on October 24th. ***(Instagram image)***

His parents, Martasia Griffin and Don Pierre, said their son, who competes against older children, was unfairly sidelined because of his exceptional ability. League officials disputed that account, saying the disagreement concerned playing time, alleged pushing and an argument involving adults. Police treated the incident as a civil matter and made no arrests.

Former United States national soccer player Eddie Johnson has also offered to train Nevada at his Orlando academy. The youngster's remarkable ball-handling skills have drawn widespread online attention, with supporters hoping the controversy will open doors for his future development.

Roc Nation's reported opportunity in Spain could mark an exciting new chapter for the young player.

- Rewritten from multiple sources



Holy Cross Health
A Member of Trinity Health

At Holy Cross Health, we're committed to being a compassionate, healing presence in the lives of our patients. Our mission—to improve the health of the communities we serve—is what drives us every day. Together, our efforts are nothing short of remarkable, and it's your strength and resilience that inspire us to be our best.

From everyday wellness to life-changing treatments, we're here to help you thrive—**with care that's as remarkable as you are.**

BE REMARKABLE.
holy-cross.com

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL www.caribbeantoday.com

SPORTS NEWS

Ronaldinho To Bring Samba Magic To Jamaica In Tribute To 1998 Reggae Boyz

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Ronaldinho will bring his unique Samba soccer skills to Jamaica in early December for an exhibition match and an event honoring Jamaica's Reggae Boyz team that qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France.

Dinho Promotions, a Kingston-based company, is the promoter of the Brazilian superstar's December 3-7 visit. "The visit to Jamaica affords Jamaicans a rare opportunity to enjoy the Magic of Ronaldinho, the 2002 World Cup winner and 2005 Ballon d'Or recipient. His great achievements on the field have always been supplemented by his infectious joy while playing and the humility and generosity he has displayed throughout his career," Dinho Promotions stated in a release.

On Sunday, December 6, at the National Stadium in Kingston, Ronaldinho and Friends X1 will play a Jamaica Legends team made up of members of the 1998 squad. As the first (and only) Jamaican team to play in the World Cup, the Reggae Boyz were a novelty in France. They played three matches, losing to Croatia and Argentina, but defeated Japan 2-1 in their final game.

Dinho Promotions reported that Ronaldinho, 46, is also expected to touch base with dancehall and reggae artists and producers. He owns Tu Música, a record label that collaborated with Sean Paul on the song "Lead."



On Sunday, December 6, at the National Stadium in Kingston, Ronaldinho and Friends X1 will play a Jamaica Legends team made up of members of the 1998 squad.

Along with Argentinian striker Lionel Messi and Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo, Ronaldinho is one of the giants of modern soccer. An attacking midfielder, he started his career as a teenager with Gremio in Brazil, before moving to Europe where he played for Paris Saint-Germain in France, Barcelona in Spain and AC Milan in Italy. He was a member of the all-star Brazil team that won the 2002 World Cup in Japan/South Korea, defeating Germany 2-0 in the final. Ronaldinho played 97 matches for his country and scored 33 goals.

Last June, he signed with Ravenna, a team in Italy's Serie C. In recent years, Ronaldinho has played in several exhibition matches alongside former stars such as England's David Beckham, Portugal's Luis Figo, and Trinidad and Tobago's Dwight Yorke.

Guyana Wins Inter Guiana Games Championship For First Time In 12 Years

Guyana has captured the 2026 Inter Guiana Games championship, ending a 12-year title drought with a commanding performance in track and field and an unbeaten run in men's futsal. Competing in Paramaribo, Suriname, the Guyanese contingent finished with 475 points to secure its first overall title since 2014.

French Guiana placed second with 444 points, while host nation Suriname finished third with 431.

Guyana's track and field athletes drove its success, accumulating 334 points and giving it a decisive edge over its regional rivals.

The country also dominated men's futsal, defeating both Suriname and French Guiana to finish atop the standings with nine points. French Guiana collected seven points, while Suriname finished with five. The three territories competed across six sporting disciplines: basketball, swimming, futsal, chess, track and field, and volleyball.



Guyana's track and field athletes drove its success, accumulating 334 points and giving it a decisive edge over its regional rivals. *(CMC image)*

Although Guyana claimed the overall championship, Suriname delivered strong performances in several events. The hosts dominated swimming with 288 points, ahead of French Guiana (229) and Guyana (98). Suriname also topped the chess and volleyball standings with 18 points in each discipline.

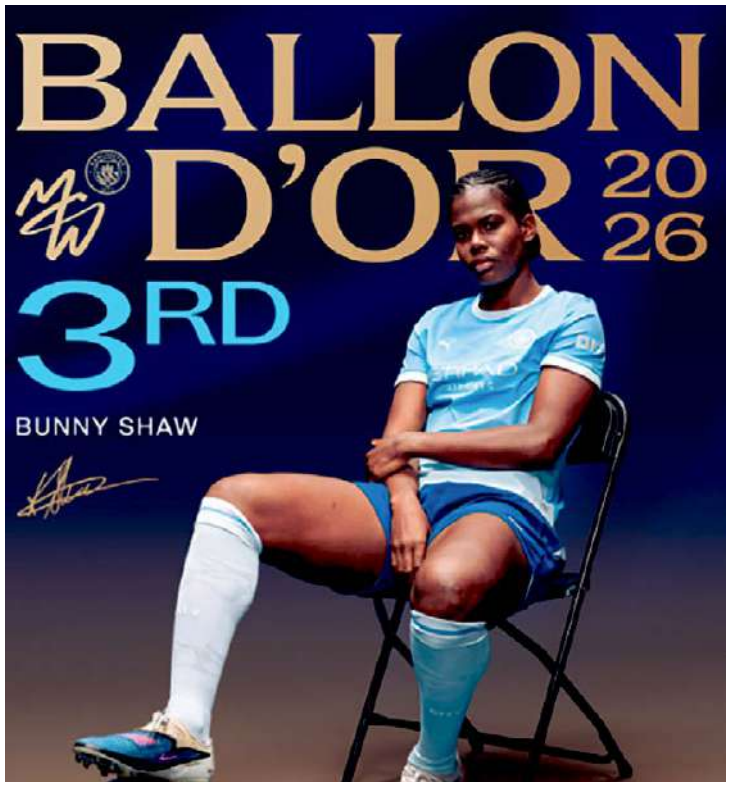
In basketball, Suriname won the women's title, while French Guiana won the men's. Both territories finished with 16 combined points, compared with Guyana's 10. Despite those results, Guyana's substantial advantage in athletics and victories in men's futsal proved enough to secure the championship.

The triumph marked Guyana's return to the top of the Inter Guiana Games standings after more than a decade. French Guiana is scheduled to host the next edition of the regional competition in 2027.

- Rewritten from CMC



Jamaica's Bunny Shaw Finishes Third In Women's Ballon d'Or Rankings



Jamaican international Khadija "Bunny" Shaw continues her impressive form.

Jamaican football star Khadija "Bunny" Shaw has secured third place in the Women's Ballon d'Or rankings, marking another milestone for Caribbean football. The Reggae Girlz captain was recognized at the October 26th awards ceremony in London, becoming the first Jamaican footballer, male or female, to finish among the top three in the prestigious international rankings.

Spain's Alexia Putellas claimed the top award following a successful season with FC Barcelona. Shaw's recognition followed an outstanding campaign with Manchester City, where she helped the club secure the Women's Super League title and FA Cup.

The Jamaican striker also captured her third consecutive WSL Golden Boot after scoring 21 goals and earned several individual honors, including WSL Player of the Season, Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year and Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year. Her third-place finish represented a significant rise from 24th in 2023 and 15th in 2024.

"To be named as the third-best player by those who voted is a huge honor for me, and I'm extremely grateful for the recognition," Shaw said. She credited her Manchester City teammates and coaching staff for supporting her achievements.

Jamaica Football Federation President Michael Ricketts welcomed the recognition, describing Shaw as a source of national pride. "It gives us more reason to be delighted and proud of the achievements of a local superstar," Ricketts said.

Reggae Girlz head coach Hubert Busby also praised Shaw's influence on young female footballers in Jamaica and the diaspora, calling her a "national treasure." Shaw's podium finish further cemented her standing among the world's leading footballers and highlighted the growing international influence of Jamaican women's football.

-Rewritten from CMC

Trinidad And Tobago Qualify For 2027 Netball World Cup

Trinidad and Tobago's Calypso Girls have secured their place at the 2027 Netball World Cup after crushing the British Virgin Islands 107-16 in the Americas Netball World Cup Qualifiers.

The commanding victory at the Garfield Sobers Sports Complex on Oct. 25th marked Trinidad and Tobago's sixth consecutive win, putting the team up 18 points and guaranteeing a top-two finish with one round of matches remaining. Goal shooter Maikea Bramble delivered an outstanding performance, converting 87 of her 90 attempts to lead the Calypso Girls to victory.

Meanwhile, St. Vincent and the Grenadines strengthened their bid for the second qualifying berth with a 77-52 victory over Grenada. The



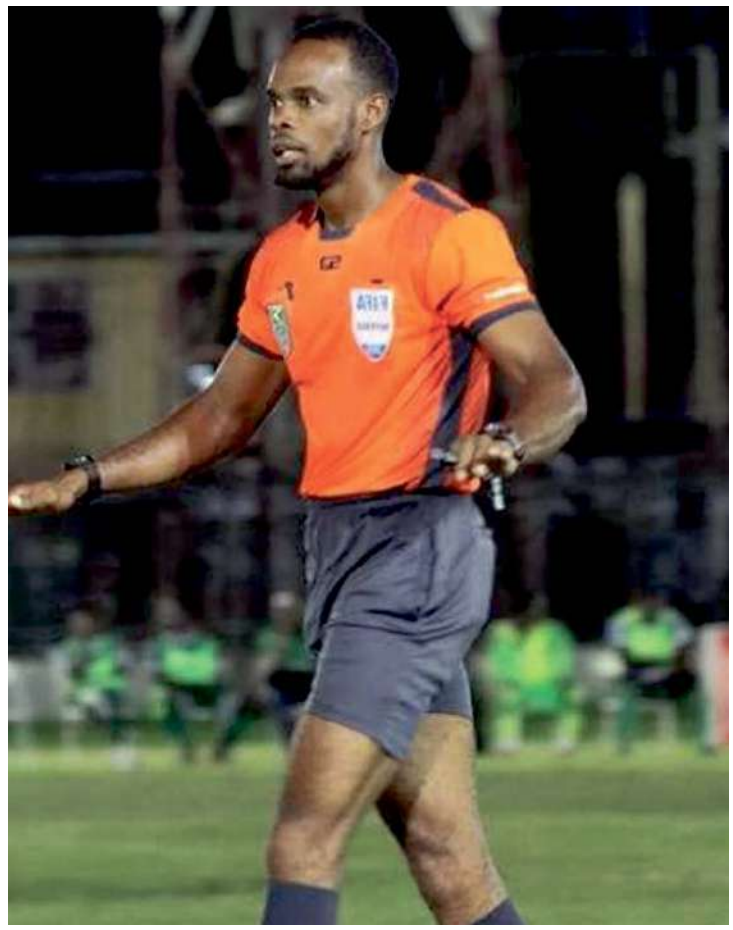
Trinidad and Tobago's Calypso Girls have secured their place at the 2027 Netball World Cup.

Vincentians improved to five wins from six matches, reaching 15 points and maintaining a three-point lead over third-placed Barbados.

Barbados kept its qualification hopes alive with a 51-40 victory over Canada, climbing to 12 points. In another encounter, the United States defeated St. Lucia 50-34 to remain in fourth place.

- Rewritten from CMC

Guyanese Referee Makes History With First VAR Certification



Guyanese FIFA referee Shavin Greene has made history.

Guyanese FIFA referee Shavin Greene has made history as Guyana's first official to earn Video Assistant Referee (VAR) certification, marking a major milestone for football officiating in the country.

Greene achieved the distinction after completing CONCACAF's inaugural Video Match Official Certification Program, a six-month training initiative designed to prepare referees for the technical demands of video-assisted officiating. "To be the first referee from Guyana to gain this certification is a massive honor, but it's also a huge responsibility," Greene said. "The game moves so fast now, and as officials, we have to evolve with it. The VAR process demands total clarity, speed, and focus under intense pressure."

The program, which began in March, attracted 27 applicants from across the CONCACAF region. Twelve candidates advanced to specialized training at the Miami Centralized Replay Center in May. Participants underwent simulator exercises, technical assessments, and practical evaluations focused on reviewing match incidents, communicating with on-field officials, and making accurate decisions under pressure.

Greene gained valuable experience during assignments involving the CONCACAF Central American Cup, where he applied his training in competitive match situations. "It's not just about watching replays; it's about understanding the protocol, communicating seamlessly with the crew on the pitch, and ensuring the right call is made without disrupting the rhythm of the game," he explained.

Eleven officials ultimately received FIFA IAAP certification on September 10, 2026, following practical placements across several regional competitions. Greene's achievement comes as the Guyana Football Federation continues its Referee Regularization Program, which aims to improve officiating standards and create pathways for Guyanese referees to secure international appointments.

His certification represents another step forward for Guyana's growing presence in regional and international football.

- Rewritten from CMC

Over 13,696,000 copies printed and delivered in 37 years

DON'T LET THE STREETS BE THE LAST PLACE THESE SENIORS CALL HOME.



Your donation will help create housing for homeless seniors.

Donate at HomelessTrust.org

HOMELESS TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Homeless Awareness Day is November 6