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Courting Caribbean
American Voters ... Page 6



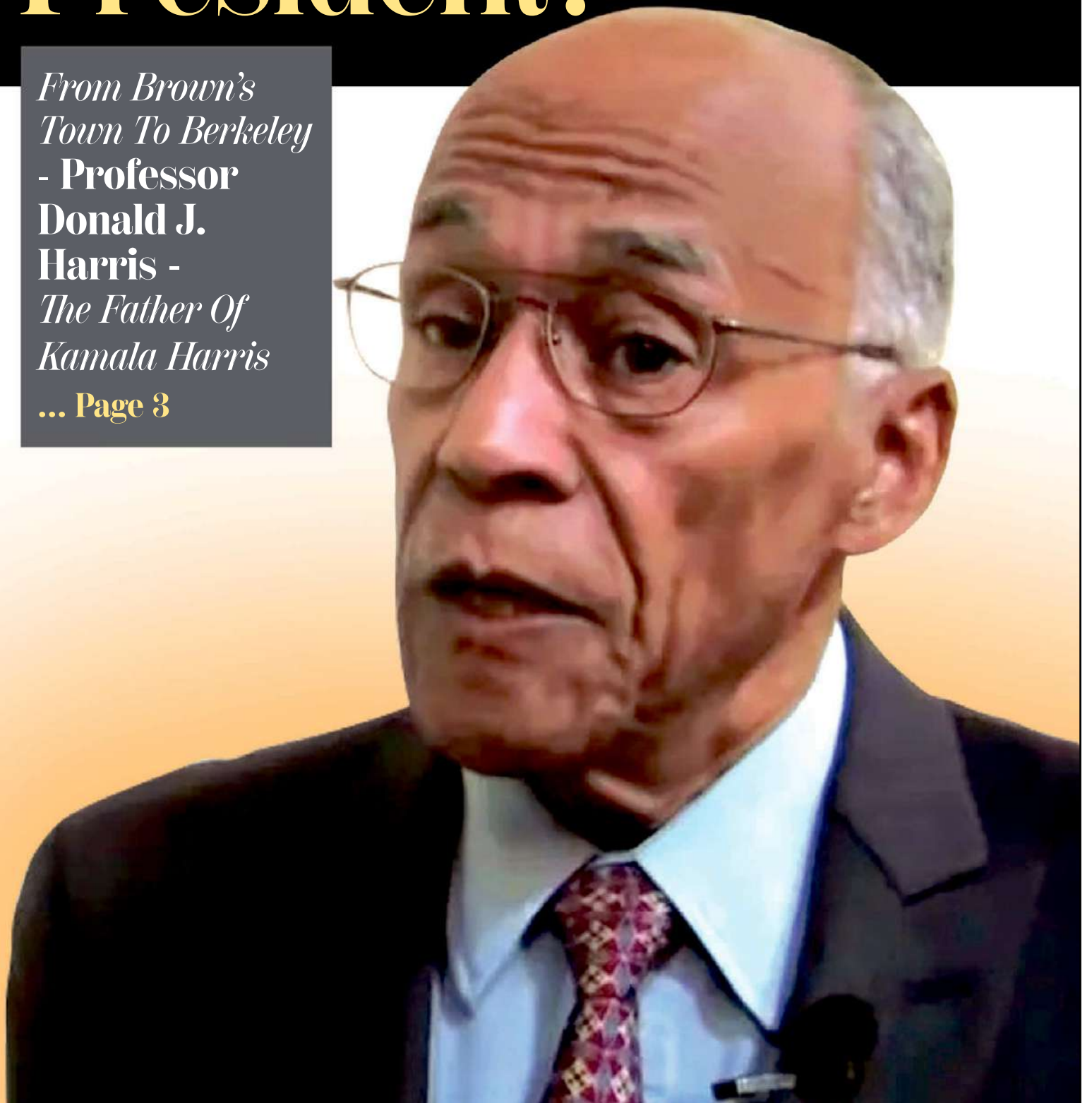
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Father Of The Next President?

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REGIONAL NEWS

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

The United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA), has raised concerns over the increasing sexual violence faced by women and girls displaced by gang violence in Haiti. Living in deplorable conditions in makeshift camps in Port-au-Prince, many are at heightened risk, particularly due to poorly secured facilities in the camps.

Among the 185,000 displaced people in the capital, many women have reported sexual assaults, with gender-based violence cases rising by over 40% between March and May 2024. A total of 3,949 cases were reported from January to May, with 61% of victims being displaced persons.

In response, the UNFPA has launched a \$28 million appeal to expand access to essential reproductive health and gender-based violence services in Haiti.

Haiti continues to face turmoil since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise, with ongoing gang violence displacing over 578,000 people and putting nearly 5 million at risk of hunger.

JAMAICA

United Oil and Gas Plc (UOG) says no commercial oil or gas discovery has been made in Jamaica amid reports circulating on social media that the commodity had been discovered. In a statement, the British-based

company, which has a 22,400km2 offshore exploration license, located to the south of the island, said it has drilled no wells.

The company said that the Walton-Morant license it has acquired is for exploration off Jamaica's south coast and that it "holds a 100 per cent working interest and is currently engaged in a farm-out process."

"The Walton-Morant Licence is a vast exploration area containing numerous promising prospects. We are committed to improving our understanding of the resource potential within the license area," said Brian Larkin, United's chief executive officer.

The oil and gas company said that its 2024 work program is focused on conducting piston core sampling, which aims to detect any oil residue before considering future exploration drilling targets.

"We continue working to secure a strategic partner to unlock the immense potential within the license, including recent positive interest that has been shown by several parties. Following securing an extension to the license, our 2024

Meanwhile, Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness hailed the nomination of Jamaica's Finance Minister, Dr. Nigel Clarke, as the next Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a "historic and



Olympic gold medalist of Dominica, Thea LaFond-Gadson, receiving her cash gift in Dominica.

important development." Clarke's appointment, proposed by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, is set to take effect on October 31, 2024.

Holness emphasized that this marks the first time a citizen of Jamaica, the Caribbean, or Central America has been selected for such a high-level role in the IMF's 80-year history. "This development is a tremendous net gain for Jamaica and the Caribbean," Holness stated, noting that Clarke's elevation showcases the strength and capability of his administration.

And Jamaica police are investigating whether or not a shark is responsible for the death of a student of the William Knibb Memorial High School, whose headless body was discovered on August 27th, a day after he went missing during a spear fishing

expedition.

The Jamaica Observer newspaper reported that the badly mutilated body of 16-year-old Jahmari Reid had been retrieved by divers and that scores of people converged on the Falmouth Fishing Beach, on the island's north coast, to view the remains.

The left arm was severed from the body.

The student's father, Michael Reid, said his son had gone to the sea by himself on Monday and that he had tried unsuccessfully to discourage him from his spear fishing hobby. One of the fishermen, Christopher Reynolds, said he was informed that a massive tiger shark was spotted in the water by the divers who had located the body, shortly after they recovered the detached arm.

President of Falmouth Fisherfolks Benevolent Society, Fritz Christie, said this was the first time in recent history that a shark has been said to have killed anyone in the Trelawny waters and that it is believed that the shark followed a cruise vessel into the Falmouth waters.

DOMINICA

Olympian Thea LaFond-Gadson, Dominica's first

Olympic medalist, has been honored with a grand welcome home motorcade and celebration concert, rewards for her gold medal Triple Jump victory at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit also announced that LaFond-Gadson will receive the following rewards for the historical feat she achieved and for lifting the name of Dominica on the global stage. They include:

- A cash gift of \$400,000; Appointment as a National Sports Ambassador;
- Issuance of a Diplomatic passport (courtesy of Diplomatic passport to also be extended to her husband);
- Dominica's highest national award – The Dominica Award of Honour- to be bestowed to her during this year's Independence celebrations where she will be a special guest of honour;
- A parcel of land in Warner containing 7,459 square feet in the location of the future housing project with spectacular sea and mountain views;
- Track and Field facility to be built and named the Thea LaFond-Gadson Track and Field Complex.

- Compiled from CMC News & Loop Caribbean

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A photograph of a man with a beard and a woman embracing. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera, while the woman is seen from the back, wearing a pink top. They are outdoors, and the background is slightly blurred.

The logo for Baptist Health Cancer Care, featuring a green square with a white pineapple icon and the text "Baptist Health Cancer Care" in white.

From Brown's Town To Berkeley - Professor Donald J. Harris - The Father Of Kamala Harris

BY CT STAFF WRITER

During her speech on the final day of the 2024 Democratic National Convention, where she formally accepted the Democratic nomination for president, US Vice President Kamala Harris extensively spoke about her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris. However, her mention of her father was brief, with no reference to his name or identity.

"At the park, my mother would say, 'Stay close.' But my father would say, as he smiled, 'Run, Kamala, run. Don't be afraid. Don't let anything stop you.' From my earliest years, he taught me to be fearless," she said during her speech on August 22nd, at the United Center in Chicago.

That was the extent of it, and notably, her father was absent from the convention during the most important speech of her political career, despite being her only living parent.

Professor Harris, who turned 86 on August 23rd, was conspicuously absent from the row of the VPs' family that included husband Doug Emhoff and his two adult children, Cole and Ella, as well as Harris' younger sister, Maya Harris, and her family.

Yet according to Harris' 2019 memoir, although her parents divorced when she was in elementary school, her father remained involved, seeing his daughters on weekends and during the summer.

SO, WHO IS KAMALA HARRIS' FATHER, DONALD J. HARRIS?

Donald Jasper Harris was born on August 23, 1938, in Brown's Town, Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica. Donald Jasper Harris is the son of Oscar Joseph Harris and Beryl Christie Harris (née Finegan). His paternal grandmother, Christiana Brown, shared with him that their family descended from Irish plantation owner Hamilton Brown, who founded the local Anglican church where she is buried. Raised in the Anglican faith, Harris was baptized, confirmed, and served as an acolyte.

Harris graduated from Titchfield High School and later attended the University College of the West Indies. In 1960, he moved to London to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of London. He then migrated to the U.S. to pursue a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, where he completed his dissertation in 1966 under the supervision of renowned econometrician Daniel McFadden.

During his time at Berkeley, Donald Harris met Shyamala Gopalan, an Indian-born student, and the two married in 1963. They had two daughters, Kamala and Maya, but divorced eight years later. Despite a difficult custody



Professor Donald J. Harris, the father of VP Kamala Harris, who could be the next President of the US, during a past speech in Jamaica. (Jamaica Gleaner image)

battle, Donald Harris remained committed to his daughters.

The original relationship between father and daughter "came to an abrupt halt in 1972," Harris wrote in a 2019 article about the family's Jamaican heritage.

"After a hard-fought custody battle in the family court of Oakland, California," he said, the judge imposed a settlement based on "the false assumption that fathers cannot handle parenting."

Nevertheless, he said, "I persisted, never giving up on my love for my children or reneging on my responsibilities as their father."

A scholarly tome Harris published in 1978 – Capital Accumulation and Income Distribution – was dedicated to young Kamala and Maya.

Kamala Harris's niece Meena has hinted at more complexities. And Shyamala's brother, Gopalan Balachandran, told the Times that his sister was so angry after the split she refused even to talk to Donald Harris.

A DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC CAREER

Donald Harris' academic career began as an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1966-67) and at Northwestern University (1967-68). He became an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1968. In 1972, he joined Stanford University as a professor of economics, becoming the first Black scholar to receive tenure in Stanford's Department of Economics. Harris has also been a visiting professor at Yale University and Cambridge University, among others, and served on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals.

Throughout his career, Harris has focused on issues of economic inequality, arguing that uneven development is an inherent feature of market economies. His research has drawn on the works of economists such as Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, and Joseph Schumpeter, and he is recognized as a prominent critic of mainstream economic theory.

Harris has also been actively involved in Jamaica's economic development, advising successive

governments and contributing to major policy frameworks, including the National Industrial Policy (1996) and the Growth Inducement Strategy (2011).

Awards and Recognition
Professor Harris has received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the Order of Merit from Jamaica in 2021. He has also been a Fulbright Scholar and held fellowships at

institutions like Yale University and Cambridge University.

THE DIVIDE

Despite his many achievements, Donald Harris has remained largely absent from his daughter Kamala Harris' political life.

In one of the few times Kamala Harris has spoken about her father publicly, she described

him as "a good guy," but acknowledged that they are not close.

He last publicly commented on her in 2019, criticizing a remark she made about marijuana use during a radio interview with Charlamagne tha God while promoting her memoir, "The Truths We Hold: An American

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Jamaica Opposition Raises Concerns As Dr. Nigel Clarke Appointed IMF Deputy Managing Director

Jamaica's main opposition People's National Party, (PNP), has welcomed the appointment of Finance and Planning Minister Dr. Nigel Clarke as Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, (IMF). However, the party also expressed concerns about the government's ability to address the ongoing economic challenges faced by Jamaicans following Clarke's departure.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva hailed Clarke's appointment to the senior position at the Washington-based financial institution, describing him as "a tremendous addition to our skills and capabilities, strongly supported by staff at the IMF." Clarke is set to assume the role on October 31, succeeding Antoinette Sayeh, who steps down on September 12.

Speaking at a roundtable with Caribbean journalists, Georgieva praised Clarke's experience and dedication to public service, calling his appointment "a testament to Nigel Clarke's skills" and a significant reflection of the Caribbean region's influence. "You have been on the front line of one of the most dramatic challenges we face, the climate challenge, and you have a lot to teach the rest of the world on how to handle it. So thank you, Caribbean region, for gifting us Nigel Clarke to help us lead the fund in the next years," she said.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness described Clarke's appointment as "a historic and important development," noting that it marks the first time in the IMF's 80-year history that a citizen of Jamaica, the Caribbean, or Central America has served at this level. He emphasized that Clarke's new role is a



Jamaica's Finance and Planning Minister Dr. Nigel Clarke has been named as the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, (IMF).

"tremendous net gain" for Jamaica and the Caribbean, highlighting the global significance of the IMF's work in promoting financial stability and monetary cooperation.

"This elevation of Minister Clarke is demonstrative of the depth, strength, and capacity of my administration," Holness added.

While congratulating Clarke, the PNP expressed concern about the timing of his departure. "His departure comes at a critical juncture for our country as we face serious economic challenges, including the spiraling cost of living and the negative growth impact of the recent hurricane," the party said in a statement.

The PNP questioned whether Clarke's move signals "the abandonment of a sinking ship," leaving Jamaicans to deal with unresolved economic issues. The opposition party urged the government to provide clarity on the transition plan for the Ministry of Finance, outline strategies to manage current economic pressures, and detail measures to support the most vulnerable in society.

The PNP affirmed its readiness to work constructively in the national interest to help Jamaica navigate these challenging times and remains committed to advocating for economic policies that prioritize inclusive and sustainable growth. Clarke is expected to take up the role on October 31st, succeeding Antoinette Sayeh, who steps down on September 12th. IMF

Meanwhile, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva lauded the proposed appointment of Clarke to the senior position, calling it "a tremendous addition to our skills and capabilities." Speaking during a virtual roundtable with Caribbean journalists, Georgieva praised

Clarke's qualifications, stating that his appointment reflects his "skills, experience, and dedication to public service," and is a significant endorsement of the Caribbean region's credibility.

"You have been on the front line of one of the most dramatic challenges we face, the climate challenge, and you have a lot to teach the rest of the world on how to handle it. So thank you, Caribbean region, for gifting us Nigel Clarke to help us lead the Fund in the next years," she said. Georgieva highlighted that Clarke will join the IMF's most senior leadership team, which includes four Deputy Managing Directors and herself. In this role, Clarke will help lead the

Fund and serve its 190 member countries, representing the IMF at international forums and speaking on behalf of the institution. She emphasized that Clarke's experience will be particularly valuable in elevating the voices of small island states and vulnerable countries dealing with the impacts of climate change. "I'm particularly excited about him joining us as I start my second term, and I know that in my second term, attention to vulnerable island countries will be even more elevated," Georgieva added.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Miami-Dade Mayor Levine Cava Wins Re-Election, Several Other Races To Be Decided In November

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava scored a major victory in her reelection bid by trouncing six challengers to avoid a run-off in November. Levine Cava, the first female Miami-Dade County mayor, won 60 percent of the vote, exceeding the 50 percent threshold to win outright. Had she received less than 50 percent, she would've been forced to stay on the campaign trail for another three months.

Though Miami-Dade mayoral and county commission races are non-partisan, Levine Cava, a Democrat, outpaced and out-raised mostly GOP challengers including Miami Lakes Mayor Manny Cid, who finished second with 21.1 percent of the vote and social media influencer Alex Otaola with 11.5 percent.

Levine Cava, whose campaign focused on continuing to tackle the affordable housing crisis and upgrading infrastructure at Miami International Airport, transportation and economic development, said she was overwhelmed by the election results.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to have earned the trust of our residents to serve another four years as your mayor," Levine Cava told her supporters during a watch party in Little Havana. "Together, we achieved a decisive victory, proving that when we unite for progress, we are unstoppable. Let's celebrate tonight, tomorrow, we continue the work."

While some other races were also decided during the August 20th Primary, some will go into the Nov. 5th general elections.

Miami-Dade County Sheriff For the first time in nearly 60 years, voters picked Miami-Dade Public Safety Chief James Reyes and Miami-Dade Assistant Director Rosanna Cordero-Stutz to face off for Miami-Dade County Sheriff on November 5th.

In a 15-way race, 11 Republicans and 4 Democrats, Reyes won the Democratic nomination by picking up 46.73 percent of the votes over three candidates who received the remaining share of the vote.

Cordero-Stutz picked up 24.43 percent of the votes in the Republican Primary over 10 other candidates. Reyes and Cordero-Stutz are seeking to become top cop, a position that was reinstated by voters after it was abolished

nearly 60 years ago due to corruption.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

For Miami-Dade County Commissioner, incumbent Keon Hardemon won another four-year term by collecting 61.33 percent of the vote over his predecessor, former commissioner Audrey Edmonson who collected 28.76 percent.

A third candidate, Marion Brown, a construction company owner, got 9.9 percent of the votes.

Miami-Dade County Commission

Edmonson, who served on the Miami-Dade County Commission from 2005 to 2020 and was term-limited, defeated Hardemon in 2016 and he returned the favor this year.

Edmonson said she decided to run after District 3 constituents complained that Hardemon was not responsive to their concerns.

Hardemon reportedly disputed that claim by pointing to funding he delivered for affordable housing, anti-poverty efforts and anti-gun violence including the \$90 million Peace and Prosperity Plan as an example of the work he's been

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Journey" and as she entered national politics by running for president in the 2020 race.

"Half my family's from Jamaica," she said when asked if she ever used marijuana. "Are you kidding me?"

Professor Harris was so annoyed by the comment he wrote a lengthy article about it.

"My dear departed grandmothers (whose extraordinary legacy I described in a recent essay on this

website), as well as my deceased parents, must be turning in their grave right now to see their family's name, reputation and proud Jamaican identity being connected, in any way, jokingly or not with the fraudulent stereotype of a pot-smoking joy seeker and in the pursuit of identity politics," he wrote in an essay for Jamaica Global.

Kamala Harris nor her campaign did not comment on it and Professor Harris has stayed silent since, saying in 2019, he decided "to stay out of all

the political hullabaloo by not engaging in any interviews with the media."

Professor Harris, a naturalized U.S. citizen living with his new wife, Carol Kirlew, a Jamaican and former World Bank executive in Washington, D.C. has stayed true to those words.

He continues to lead a quiet life as an emeritus professor, watching from a distance as his daughter makes history yet again.



Trump Appointed Judge Halts Biden 'Keeping Families Together' Immigration Program

A Donald Trump appointed federal judge in Texas has temporarily halted a Biden administration program that sought to pave a path to legalization for up to half a million undocumented immigrants married to U.S. citizens. The decision comes after 16 Republican-led states sued the administration, challenging the program.

Judge J. Campbell Barker of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issued the stay, pausing the approval of applications for the program, which had just begun accepting submissions last week. The court will now consider the broader legal issues raised in the lawsuit, which questions the executive branch's authority to set immigration policy without congressional approval.

The program, called Keeping Families Together, seeks to ease the legalization process for undocumented immigrants who have been in the U.S. for



Trump appointed Judge J. Campbell Barker

over 10 years and are married to American citizens. Under current law, such individuals must return to their home countries to complete the green card process, often resulting in long separations from their families. The new initiative allows them to stay in the U.S. while their applications are processed, offering a form of "parole" that shields them from

deportation and grants work authorization.

Republican states leading the lawsuit argue that the program amounts to an "amnesty" for undocumented immigrants and could negatively impact state resources. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton spearheaded the complaint, which echoes ongoing Republican criticisms of the administration's immigration policies.

Immigrant advocacy groups swiftly condemned the ruling, with Rebecca Shi, executive director of the American Business Immigration Coalition, calling it detrimental to the economy and harmful to families who have been in the U.S. for decades. Legal-aid organizations assisting applicants have reported high demand, with thousands of people seeking help in the program's first week.

The suspension will remain in place for 14 days while both sides submit further arguments.

ABOUT JUDGE BARKER

Barker, 44, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and is a member of the Federalist Society. On May 1, 2019, his nomination was confirmed by a 51–47 vote in the senate after he was nominated on January 23, 2018, by then President Donald Trump to the seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas vacated by Judge Leonard Davis. He received his judicial commission on May 3, 2019. His other notable rulings include on February 25, 2021, when he struck down the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's federal eviction moratorium.

On March 9, 2024, Barker also vacated the National Labor Relations Board's final rule on joint-employer status, issued in October 2023, that was set to be in effect 3 days later. He had previously stayed the rule until the 11th.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Barker served as Deputy Solicitor General of Texas,

arguing appeals and public-law cases for the State. Before his state-government service, Judge Barker was an appellate and IP partner at Yetter Coleman in Houston. Before that, he spent four years in the Appellate Section of the DOJ's Criminal Division. While there, he taught appellate advocacy at the National Advocacy Center, completed a Pegasus Scholarship with the English Inns of Court, and served on detail as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Barker served as a law clerk to Judge William Bryson on the Federal Circuit and Chief Judge John Walker on the Second Circuit. He earned his B.S. in computer engineering summa cum laude from Texas A&M and his J.D. from the University of Texas, where he graduated first in his class.

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NEWS



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Coral Springs Commissioner Tapped As Harris/Walz Florida Caribbean Vote Director

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Florida is among the key battleground states for the U.S. Presidential race and the Democratic Party is reaching out to the Caribbean American population to help make Vice President Kamala Harris the next Commander and Chief.

Florida constitutes a large Caribbean American population with 864,800 immigrants living in the state, the highest share of all U.S. states, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

With that in mind, Harris' Florida campaign has tapped Coral Springs Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen as its Caribbean vote director for Florida.

Metayer Bowen, the first Haitian-American and Black woman Coral Springs commissioner, won reelection by default this year after no one challenged her for her seat. It's a big responsibility for the Florida Democratic Party but Bowen said she's up to the task.

"We are in a pivotal time right now, especially with the momentum that we are seeing across the state of Florida, especially within the Caribbean community," Metayer Bowen

told the Sun Sentinel recently. "I am super excited. She's just an amazing individual and candidate, and I'm so proud to be a part of history. This is history."

At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on August 19-22, Harris accepted the Democratic party nomination along with her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, to run against Trump and his vice president nominee Ohio Senator J.D. Vance.

Metayer Bowen's effort to woo Caribbean American voters started with a caravan that traveled to voting sites for Miami-Dade and Broward counties for the August 20th Primary.

Florida is a key battleground state where Trump beat Biden by a 3.4 point margin in 2020 but lost the election.

Harris is seeking to cut into Trump's home base in November, who lives at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach County. Like other Democratic Party leaders, Metayer Bowen is optimistic about Harris' chances in Florida but it's no longer seen as a swing state that could easily go either way in a presidential election.

It's now Republican red, rather than Democratic blue or



Harris' Florida campaign has tapped Coral Springs Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen as its Caribbean vote director for Florida.

purple between the two parties, a challenge Metayer Bowen acknowledged.

"We understand that Florida's a red state. But I think that we're making strides to galvanize Democrats up and down the state to go out and vote. I think this is an opportunity to turn our state purple if not blue and to show Florida is in play on a national level," she stated.

According to the New York Times, Harris and Trump lead in

several polls and are neck and neck in other polls.

Harris holds a narrow lead over former president Donald Trump, a notable improvement for Democrats in a contest that a little more than a month ago showed President Joe Biden and Trump in a dead heat, according to a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll.

Harris stands at 49 percent to Trump's 45 percent among registered voters in a head-to-head matchup.

In August, when third-party candidates were included in the survey, Harris was at 47 percent and Trump at 44 percent, with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at 5 percent. Kennedy dropped his bid for the presidency on August 23rd and is supporting Trump.

According to her professional profile, Metayer Bowen is a senior manager for Energy and Climate Equity Specialist for Energy Solutions. She has focused on sustainability and environmental issues during

her first term in political office, such as creating the city's first sustainability office and pushing the city to hire its first sustainability manager.

Before entering politics, Metayer Bowen, who earned her bachelor's degree in science from FAMU and her master's in health science from Johns Hopkins University, was an advocate for community issues including environmental disaster relief and led a long-term strategic initiative- the Florida Disaster Preparedness Plan (FDPP).

Her vision focused on rebuilding disaster areas and community resilience in areas that are at a higher risk for flooding due to climate change. As a commissioner for Coral Springs, Bowen has been fostering small businesses with economic development plans and other opportunities including solar manufacturing and tech hubs.



VP Kamala Harris' Record On The Caribbean and Central America

Over the past three years as U.S. Vice President, Kamala Harris, a Black, Caribbean, and South Asian American, has played a crucial role in addressing key challenges in Central America and the Caribbean. Her initiatives, particularly in tackling the root causes of migration and strengthening U.S. relations with regional partners, have been significant, according to Jason Marczak, Vice President and Senior Director of the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. Here's a look at her efforts:

Leading the Root Causes Strategy for Central American Migration:

- Appointed in April 2021 to spearhead efforts addressing migration from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- Convened a group of experts to craft strategies focused on transparency, economic development, security, and governance.
- Launched a five-pillar strategy in June 2021 to work with in-country stakeholders on reducing migration drivers.
- Helped secure over \$5.2 billion in commitments from companies and organizations to invest in the region.
- Oversaw a significant reduction in migration from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to the U.S. border.

Strengthening U.S.-Caribbean Relations:

- Became the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit The Bahamas in June 2023, co-

hosting the U.S.-Caribbean Leaders Meeting.

- Prioritized collaboration on climate change, food security, and security issues, including arms trafficking.
- Secured a \$100 million U.S. assistance package to address regional challenges, including Haiti's humanitarian crisis.
- Promoting Long-Term Economic Security in Central America and the Caribbean:
- Advocated for providing local organizations with technical and financial resources to foster job creation and human capital development.
- Focused on combating corruption and enhancing governance to support sustainable development.

Applying a "Listen, Act, Follow Up" Approach:

- Met with regional leaders to understand their priorities before crafting strategies.
- Implemented long-term solutions, adjusting tactics based on evolving conditions in the region.
- Harris' work in Central America and the Caribbean underscores her commitment to tackling complex issues that require thoughtful, adaptive solutions. As she continues to define her potential foreign policy as a presidential candidate, these experiences offer insight into how she might navigate the global stage and these regions.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean Today



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Election Results You Should Know

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

doing since he was first elected in 2020.

District 3 covers Brownsville, Liberty City, El Portal, Overtown, and several unincorporated areas.

Florida House of Representatives

For Florida House of Representatives, state Rep. Ashley Gantt defeated two former state Reps., James Bush III, who served in Tallahassee for nearly 30 years, and Roy Hardemon, to retain her District 107 seat.

Gantt picked up 53 percent of the vote while Bush, who she defeated in 2022, got 29.2 percent and Hardemon got 17.8 percent.

District 107 includes Brownsville, Liberty City, Overtown and Opa-locka.

Gantt thanked her supporters for allowing her to continue the work she's been doing for the past two years.

"Thank you to my community, the voters of House District 109, for honoring me with your trust to continue to represent our community in Tallahassee," Gantt said in a statement. "This victory belongs to all of us who believe in the power of grassroots organizing and the fight for our shared values."

"I'm honored to continue serving the district I was raised in, advocating for our teachers, students, families, and workers."

For House District 107, which covers Miami Gardens and portions of North Miami and North Miami Beach, Wallace Aristide, a former high school principal, won the Democratic Primary in a crowded field by collecting 44 percent of the vote.

Loreal Arscott, an attorney, got 17 percent, followed by Monique Mayo-Barley, a business consultant, with 11.3 percent and Christine Sanon-Jules Olivo, a teacher and small business owner, drew 11 percent.

With no Republican challengers, Aristide replaced Christopher Benjamin who decided to forgo another term to run for County Court judge.

Broward County Sheriff

For Broward County Sheriff, incumbent Sheriff Gregory Tony won the Democratic Primary by picking up 49.6 percent of the vote over Steve Geller, a veteran of the Plantation Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, who got 34.05 percent, Al Pollock, a 40-year veteran of the Broward Sheriff's Office, (BSO), who retired as a colonel, received 11.46 percent and 4.86 percent went to David Howard, an Air Force veteran who spent 30 years with the West Palm Beach Police Department.

Tony will face independent candidate Charles Edward Whatley, a former United States Marine Corps veteran and law

enforcement professional, in the general election on November 5.

Palm Beach County Sheriff

For Palm Beach County Sheriff, Ric Bradshaw picked up the Democratic nomination to face Republican Michael Gauger in the November general election.

Broward County School Board

For Broward County School Board, Rebecca Thompson, a former assistant to School Board member Allen Zeman, defeated incumbent Torey Alston, a Gov. Ron DeSantis appointee. Thompson collected 67.6 percent of the vote to Alston's 32.35 percent.

Broward County School Board District

For Broward County School Board District 3, Sarah Leonardi, a former teacher, defeated another DeSantis' appointee Jason Lee Loring with 70.4 percent of the vote, while incumbent Jeff Holness beat Windsor D. Ferguson Jr., and supporter of the controversial parental rights group Mon for Liberty, with 75.8 percent of the vote two win District 5.

Longtime school board member Debra "Debbi" Hixon retained her At Large Seat 9 with 71 percent of the vote over Moms for Liberty supporter Tom Vasquez who got 28.9 percent.

Hixon's husband was Chris Hixon, an athletic director who was killed during the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High shooting massacre.

Palm Beach County School Board

For Palm Beach County School Board, both District 1 and District 5 races are headed for a runoff in November since no candidate received 50 percent of the vote.

For District 1, Matthew Jay Lane and Page Lewis will face off in November as well Gloria Branch and Mindy Koch for District 5.

Palm Beach State Attorney

Alexcia Cox is one step from becoming the first Black and first woman Palm Beach State Attorney. Cox won the Democratic Primary with 64 percent of the vote, beating out criminal defense attorney Gregg Lerman who got 19 percent and fellow state attorney Craig Williams, who received 17.

"Thank you, Palm Beach County," Cox said in a statement. "Tonight's victory isn't just mine; it's ours, and I am deeply grateful to every single person who lent their support to help us get here. My commitment to Palm Beach County is unwavering. This is my home, the place where I was born and raised, and I am determined to make it a stronger, safer place for all who live here."

Cox, Palm Beach State Attorney's deputy chief assistant,

faces Republican winner Sam Stern, a former assistant state attorney who has his private practice, in November.

Stern collected 63 percent of the vote in the Republican Primary over Boca Raton lawyer Forrest Freedman who received 37 percent of the vote.

Palm Beach County Public Defender

For Palm Beach County Public Defender, Daniel Eisinger defeated Adam Frankel by more than 10 points. No Republicans entered the race.

Palm Beach County Commissioner

For Palm Beach County Commissioner, former state Senator Bobby Powell Jr. defeated community activist Richard A. Ryles with 65.6 percent of the vote in the Democratic Primary. Powell faces Republican Leonard L. Serratore in November along with Boaz Fleurena and Javonta Jerome Taylor, who are both write-in candidates.

U.S. Senate

For the U.S. Senate, incumbent Rick Scott won the Republican Primary over two challengers with 84 percent of the vote, setting up a November showdown with former Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell.

Mucarsel-Powell won the Democratic nomination by 68 percent of vote over three opponents including Miami native and former Air Force pilot Stanley Campbell, who received 19 percent.

U.S. House of Representatives

For U.S. House of Representatives District 21, incumbent Brian Mast beat Rick Wiles in the Primary to face Democratic winner Thomas Witkop, who ran unopposed in the Primary, and write-in candidate Elizabeth Felton.

For House District 22, Dan Franzese won the Republican Primary with 52 percent of the vote over Andrew Gutmann (25.3 percent) and Deborah Adeimy (22 percent).

Franzese will face Democratic incumbent state Rep. Lois Frankel in November.

For House District 23, Joe Kaufman won the Republican Primary by winning 35 percent of the vote over four opponents to face incumbent Jared Moskowitz, who won the Democratic Primary by default.

For House District 24, Jesus Navarro defeated Patricia Gonzalez in the Republican Primary with 56.8 percent of the vote to her 43 percent to face Congresswoman Fredrica Wilson, who won the Democratic Primary unopposed, and write-in candidate Lavern Spicer in November.

For House District 25

(Broward County), Chris Eddy captured 64.9 percent of the vote over Bryan Leib's 35 percent in the Republican Primary to challenge U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who beat Jennifer Perelman by 83 percent of the votes to win the Democratic nomination.

State Representative

For state Representative for District 94 in Palm Beach County, which was an open seat, Meg Meinberger won the Republican Primary with 47.7 percent of the vote over three opponents to face Rachele Litt who won by default to secure the Democratic nomination.

For state Senate District 35, former Broward County mayor Barbara Sharief picked up 46.56 percent of the vote over police watchdog chairman Rodney Jacobs (18.56 percent) and attorney Chad Klitzman (34.88 percent).

For state Rep. District 89 Palm Beach County, Debra Tendrich, executive director of a non-profit, picked up the Democratic nomination with 59 percent of the vote over Destinie Baker Sutton, a former Palm Beach County prosecutor who now owns her own law firm, who got 41 percent.

Sutton faces teacher Daniel Zapata who was the only candidate in the Republican Primary.

For House District 98, Mitch Rosenwald won the Democratic nomination with 37.2 percent of the votes in a 4-way race for the open seat. Since no Republican candidates entered the race, Rosenwald claimed the seat.

For House District 99, incumbent state Rep. Daryl Campbell won another two-year term by collecting 74 percent of the vote over political newcomer Joshaua Brown who got 25 percent.

Broward County Elections Supervisor

For Broward County Elections Supervisor, incumbent Joe Scott kept his position by securing 86 percent of the vote and his lone opponent Russell Roberto Bathulia received 13.7 percent of the vote.

For the first time in Broward County history, voters elected a tax collector, sticking with Abbey Ajayi who won a close race by collecting 35 percent of the vote over Broward County accounting manager Dwight Forrest, who got 33 percent, and former state Senator Perry E. Thurston Jr. who picked up the remaining 32 percent. Ajayi has been Broward County's tax collector for four years before the election.

Clerk of the Circuit Court in Broward County

For Clerk of the Circuit Court in Broward County, incumbent Brenda D. Forman,

the first Black and first woman clerk, won with 44 percent of the vote over Charles F. Hall, a retired court operations manager, (38 percent) and former Broward County Clerk of the Courts employee Annette R. Daniels (16 percent). Daniels claimed she was fired in 2024 because she filed paperwork to run against her boss, Forman.

Broward Circuit Judge Group

For Broward Circuit Judge Group 1, incumbent Carol-Lisa Phillips beat trail attorney Christina Grace Arguelles with 71 percent of the vote.

For Broward Circuit Judge Group 38, incumbent Stefanie C. Moon won with 64 percent of the vote over criminal defense lawyer John "Johnny" Weekes who earned 35 percent.

For Broward County Judge Group 6, incumbent Kathleen Mary "Katie" McHugh won with 73 percent of the vote over civil attorney Scott R. Shapiro who got 26 percent.

For Broward County Court Judge Group 10, family attorney Samuel Ford Stark and assistant city attorney Woody Clermont will face off in a run-off in November.

Stark got 49 percent of the vote and Clermont received 26 percent.

Attorney Alejandro "Alex" Arreaza received 24.12 percent of the remaining vote.

For Broward County Judge Group 16, trial lawyer Kathleen "Kathie" Elaine Angione won with 71 percent of the vote over criminal defense attorney Joseph "Joe" Zager who got 28 percent.

For Broward County Judge Group 25, trial attorney Corey Brian Friedman narrowly won with 50.4 percent of the vote over real estate attorney Tamar Hamilton who got 49.6 percent.

For Broward County Judge Group 32, animal rights attorney Lauren Nichole Peffer won by 52 percent of the vote over criminal defense and child advocate lawyer Emilio "Emi" Benitez who received 47.5 percent.

Palm Beach County Judge Group 2, defense attorney and former prosecutor Lourdes Casanova and trial lawyer Jean Marie Middleton will face off in a run-off in November.

Casanova got 37.92 percent of the vote while Middleton received 33.86 percent.

A third candidate, attorney Douglas I. Leifert got the remaining 28.22 percent.

Precinct Committeeman

For Precinct Committeeman for Broward County (X018), Herb Vargas picked up 50.93 percent with Mark Jay Glicksman finishing second with 18.52 percent, Douglas Gum received 17.59 percent and 12.96 percent for Laureano A. Chileuit.



National Honors For Jamaicans In The Diaspora

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Several Jamaicans in the Diaspora are amongst the 150 people who will be conferred formally with national honors this National Heroes Day. These distinctions are conferred on individuals who have contributed greatly to the nation in their fields of expertise. As Jamaican citizens living abroad, they have worked tirelessly at nation-building through their work in healthcare, the film industry, foreign affairs, philanthropy, community development, and entrepreneurial development.

DISTINCTION

The Order of Distinction, (OD), will be bestowed on Dr. Novlet Davis-Bucknor for her contributions to Community Development and Philanthropy. A New York-based Nurse Practitioner and Humanitarian, Dr. Davis-Bucknor has led a team of volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare workers to Jamaica on medical missions for more than 10 years, providing health screening, dental exams, medical supplies, diagnostic exams, and education instruction to all in need.

Also receiving the Order of Distinction this October will be Dr. Karren Dunkley, a social justice activist and internationally recognized educator. Dr. Dunkley is being awarded for her unending commitment to the Jamaican Diaspora community in the United States. Her passion for family, education, and justice coupled with her fight to end racial harassment and discrimination was influential in her appointment to the US Department of Justice as a consultant. And importantly, her work as Global Jamaican

Diaspora Council member for the US Northeast Region is a reflection of her community spirit and love for her native country.

DANCEHALL QUEEN

Mention the film "Dancehall Queen" to any Jamaican anywhere in the world, and immediately the acclaimed Jamaican actor Audrey Silvia Reid comes to mind. This much-loved artiste will also be awarded the country's Order of Distinction for her enormous contributions to the Jamaica Film Industry.

"I am humbled to accept this award with gratitude and humility, knowing my God-given talent has been recognized, said Reid in a chat with Caribbean Today.

From 'higgler' to a famous dancehall queen, Reid played the part of Marcia in the film so authentically that she became somewhat of a cult figure. It is this realness that has endeared her to fans and to the filmmakers and playwrights who want to depict reality onscreen and onstage.

Asked about her authenticity, the actor noted: "Over the years I've given my talent with integrity and truth. I was never one to water down and dilute whatever task was given to me, whether it's on stage or the silver screen."

Reid is also known for her stage performances, particularly with playwright and comedian Oliver Samuels with whom she has toured across the US, Canada, the Caribbean. Born in Franklin Town, East Kingston, Reid had a hard life. But one thing is for sure, she is tenacious, curious, definitely not shy, and always ready to tackle the world. It is these qualities that she brings to her craft, a natural talent that has helped grow the film industry in Jamaica.



"Dancehall Queen" and acclaimed Jamaican actor Audrey Silvia Reid, seen here in person and in character, will be awarded the country's Order of Distinction for her enormous contributions to the Jamaica Film Industry. (Contributed image)

The actor wants to leave a legacy, one that will be a positive inspiration to those who aspire to an acting career.

"Being an actor takes lots of discipline, dedication, and commitment. Don't enter the acting profession with the mindset to be rich and famous. To follow in my footsteps, you must be better at it. You must want it," Reid advised.

MERITORIOUS

For her contributions to the Economic and Technical Development of Jamaican Business Owners in the United States, Marie Ruth Gill will be awarded the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service, BH(M). The President and CEO of the Miami-based M. Gill & Associates, Inc., Gill founded this consulting firm in 1990 to help small and minority/women-owned businesses - a fair number Jamaican-owned - with their strategic growth and economic development by connecting them with local and government agencies with resources to help them grow and

thrive. Her community outreach, emphasis on small and minority business development, economic development activities, and marketing consulting services has solidified her importance to the diaspora community she has continually supported.

Also to be conferred with the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service is Mary Maria Diana Joanna Bishop for services in the field of Philanthropy and Contributions to the Development of the Diaspora in Canada. Born in May Pen Jamaica, Bishop migrated to Canada in the 1960s. She has been a staunch advocate for her country, tirelessly fundraising and supporting organizations such as Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation and Arts and Culture Jamaica underscoring her commitment to helping the Jamaican Diaspora and indeed anyone in need of support.

Two other Jamaicans in Canada, Howard L. Shearer and Reverend Joseph Tommy Thompson will also be honoured with awards. Shearer with the Order of Distinction in the

Rank of Commander, (CD), and Thompson with the Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service, BH(L).

The honour of the Order of Jamaica, (OJ), ranked fourth in the order of precedence, has been bestowed on Jamaica's Ambassador to the US, Audrey Patrice Marks, for outstanding service to the government and people of Jamaica in her contribution to economic development, promotion of social development enterprises, and to Nation-building.

The thirteenth Ambassador to the United States of America, Ambassador Marks is Jamaica's first female Ambassador to the US and has served in that post twice. Prior to her role in government, she was a successful businesswoman with ownership in several businesses. As a board member on several public and private sector organizations she has been instrumental in promoting growth between Jamaica and the United States.

These well-deserved Honors will be presented in Jamaica during a ceremony at Kings House on National Heroes Day, October 21, 2024.



Order Of Jamaica For Jamaica's Tourism Minister

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Curtis Bartlett, C.D., will also soon receive the Order of Jamaica, (OJ), and award for invaluable contribution to the field of Tourism and for promoting Human Resource Sustainability & Climate Resilience.

He is also being recognized for 40 years of service to the Jamaican government. One of eight to be lauded for their contributions to the country, the Order of Jamaica is ranked fourth in the order of preferences.

"I am truly humbled that my efforts are being honored at this level. My heart and spirit are always with the island and people of Jamaica, and it's an incredible honor to work alongside our tourism partners in efforts to supply an authentic, vibrant experience for every visitor and support the livelihood of our people," commented Minister Bartlett when asked recently about the importance of such recognition. "Tourism is one of the largest drivers for



Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett (centre) engages in a light conversation with Brazilian Tourism Minister, Celso Sabino (left) and Governor of the State of Maranhão, Carlos Brandão in São Luís, Brazil, following the recent signing of a sustainable tourism Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) and Brazil's Ministry of Tourism. He will soon receive the Order of Jamaica, (OJ), award from the government of Jamaica for his service to the country's tourism sector. (Contributed image)

our economy, and it has been a tremendous honor to keep Jamaica at the forefront alongside other key players in the industry."

RESILIENT

Minister Bartlett is also being conferred with an honorary doctorate from the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean

for his stellar work in tourism. In a conversation with Caribbean Today recently, he emphasized that these awards are not just about his efforts. It is his hope that they will inspire meaningful dialogue about the critical importance of tourism to other industries, and other countries in the region.

In fact, Jamaica's tourism industry has always been resilient, bouncing back quickly from natural disasters with Hurricane Beryl being the most recent. Minister Bartlett noted

that Jamaica welcomed over 200,000 stopover visitors as of mid-August. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Tourism announced an 11 percent increase in arrivals in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023 and forecasts 5 million visitors by 2025.

It is the warmth and friendly hospitality that exudes from our people that makes all visitors feel right at home, said Bartlett, adding: "I believe this is the true focal point of our resiliency and why visitors come back year after year."

Importantly, the minister emphasized that Jamaica's tourism is successful because all the sectors play an important role in ensuring that the Jamaican experience is a positive one, which plays a role in strengthening the economy.

Tirelessly working toward the advancement of education in the industry, offering opportunities for upgraded skills and job creation, Minister Bartlett has been a longtime champion of economic growth through sector cooperation, with tourism being his passion. He lives it, he breathes it, and when he finds the time to rest and rejuvenate, where does he go? To Jamaica's tourism capital, Montego Bay!



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Kamala Harris' Immigration Plan And Legacy

Vice President Kamala Harris, the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, has made history as the first Black woman of Caribbean and South Asian descent to be nominated for president by a major political party. As she campaigns for the presidency, immigration remains a cornerstone of her platform, reflecting both her heritage and the complex challenges she has faced in office.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

In 2021, Harris was entrusted by President Biden with the difficult task of leading diplomatic efforts to address the surge in migration at the U.S. southern border. This role placed Harris at the forefront of one of the most contentious issues in American politics. Drawing on her background as a former prosecutor and California's attorney general, she has advocated for a firm stance on border security. Her support for a bipartisan bill that proposes strict border controls underscores her commitment to maintaining order at the border. The bill, which Harris has vowed to sign if elected, includes measures to close the

border if illegal crossings exceed 5,000 per day. Furthermore, she has pledged to bolster the border patrol by hiring thousands of additional agents and intensifying efforts to combat human trafficking and the flow of fentanyl.

Despite these efforts, Harris's tenure as Vice President has not been without controversy. Her approach to immigration has been met with both praise and criticism. On the one hand, her initiatives in Central America aimed at reducing migration by addressing root causes such as poverty, gang violence, and corruption have shown some success. Harris's call to action in May 2021 brought together CEOs and business leaders, resulting in over \$5.2 billion in investments and the creation of more than 70,000 jobs in the region. These efforts contributed to a 35% reduction in migration from Northern Central America during the Biden administration, a significant achievement compared to previous years.

However, Harris's handling of short-term border issues has drawn scrutiny. Her statements during visits to Mexico and Guatemala, particularly her advice to potential migrants to "not come" to the U.S., were met with backlash from immigrant rights advocates.

Her defensive responses during interviews, such as the one with NBC's Lester Holt, where she downplayed the importance of visiting the southern border, further fueled criticism from both the public and political opponents.

As Harris continues her presidential campaign, the mixed results of her immigration

policy remain a focal point. While her long-term strategies in Central America have yielded some positive outcomes, the ongoing challenges at the border highlight the complexities of immigration reform. Voters will closely watch how Harris balances these issues as she seeks to secure their support in the 2024 election.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Felicia J. Persaud is the publisher of *NewsAmericasNow.com*, a daily news outlet focused on positive news on the Black immigrant communities of the Caribbean and Latin America.



Beaten Women Syndrome

So many women, girlfriends, wives and common law wives, are suffering from the effects of being battered, physically assaulted, whipped into submission, punched and kicked, by demons who purport to be husbands, lovers or boyfriends.

Many of those women suffer in silence, and in this scenario, silence is not golden. No one knows of their plight except them and their abusers. As a result, they suffer from Beaten Women Syndrome, and many manage to mask it successfully, suffering in silence, smiling at grief.

But if you're astute or sensitive, you will see the symptoms or at least pick up on some of the indicators. If you aren't, then you might judge those women harshly, or even berate them, for as far as you're concerned, they're just acting weird, strange, silly, even stupid. "How is she acting so foolish, like she has no sense?"

There's a syndrome for almost everything, although some are more easily detected

than others. There's the Stockholm Syndrome, where the kidnapped person actually falls in love with the kidnapper and identifies with him or her, as in the case of American heiress Patty Hearst, who was kidnapped, fell in love with her captor and even carried out illegal acts with him and his group.

Then there's the Beaten Women Syndrome, which is more subtle than the Stockholm Syndrome, although there may be a distinct similarity as the battered wife still 'loves' her husband and refuses to leave him, even defending his actions. Of course there are telltale signs, such as bruises on the body of the woman, or a black eye now and then.

What are the symptoms? The women display a sort of childlike disposition, shy, withdrawn, introverted, low self esteem, and can't look you in the eyes when they speak to you. It is similar behavior of some children who were always told to be seen and not heard, they become shy and withdrawn in the company of adults. These women become even more so when their husbands approach, and they shrink even further into their shadow. They assume the role of the victim,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



TONY ROBINSON

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On The 61st Anniversary Of My Uncle's March On Washington

BY DR. ALVEDA KING

As we remembered the 61st anniversary of the iconic, 'I Have a Dream' speech on August 28, 1963, I am grateful for the powerful legacy left by my uncle, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

If he were here with us today, he would undoubtedly remind us that we are one blood, one human race. He would call upon us to learn to live together as brothers and sisters, rather than perish together as fools. His message of unity, justice, and love is as relevant now as it was

when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.

Uncle M.L. was a patriot, deeply committed to the ideals of the American dream - a dream that is alive today, despite the challenges we face.

He envisioned a world where people are judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character. My uncle also understood that the unique nature of our very skin tone was a testament to God's creativity and the rich tapestry of humanity.

On this 61st anniversary, as we honour King's dream and

the dreamer, it is crucial that we remind every generation, in every decade, on every platform, of the resilience of faith, hope, and love. This message is the heartbeat of my new song, In Atlanta.

A few years ago, we recorded the anthem 'Let Freedom Ring,' working with award winning producer Rahni Song, featuring the powerful vocals of Vernessa Mitchell. Written originally in 1974, my lyrics and melody reflect my gratitude for the dream that my uncle held so dearly.

This year, with In Atlanta also produced by the incredible Rahni Song, a legacy resonates, reminding us all that the dream is still very much alive.

'In Atlanta' is my original poem set to music and produced with Rahni's celebrated talent and genius. In some ways, it's part two of 'Let Freedom Ring.' 'In Atlanta' serves as a love letter to the city of my birth. The Dreamer of The Dream was born in Atlanta and the song is a testament of trials and triumphs of generations of accomplishments.

The inspiration came to me late one night, as I lay awake reflecting on the many songs dedicated to famous cities - New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and more. I realized that Atlanta deserved a tribute that captures its unique spirit and resilience. The question posed in the song, "Can anything good come out of Atlanta?" is inspired by the biblical passage where Nathanael asks, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Just as the life

of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, began in Nazareth, so too does the story of many great leaders and movements begin in cities like Atlanta.

As we release this song, I invite you to reflect on the legacy of Atlanta, the dream of my uncle, and the ongoing journey toward a more just and loving world. Let us remember that the check for insufficient funds, as my uncle described it, can be redeemed, and our "promissory note" claimed, by the grace of God. Today, let us continue to work together to ensure that King's dream is not just remembered but realized in our time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Alveda King founded The Alveda King Ministries to inform and transform the culture by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dr. King serves as chair of the America First Policy Institute's Center for the American Dream. She is the daughter of the late slain civil rights activist, Rev. A. D. King, the niece of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is a Christian evangelist, film and music industry veteran, a graduate of Aidan University 2021 recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.



Beaten Women Syndrome



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

and in their mind, everything that happens to them is their fault, despite what cruel and heinous acts the man metes out.

"It's my fault why he beats me, it's my actions that made him do it."

Women who suffer from this syndrome are often afraid to seek help, for they fear that their abuser is all powerful and is above reproach. "They can't touch him, and he'd take away the children if I reported him."

Then there's denial. The woman refuses to believe that she's being battered, and accepts it as normal behavior. If you ever dare to bring this to her attention, she may verbally abuse you and tell you to leave her husband alone. "He's a good man and I love him, yes, he's a little rough, but that's how he shows his love."

The battered woman is often emotionally forgiving, and in spite of the numerous beatings that she may get from the man, she will always forgive him. As a result, those abusers exploit this forgiving nature, and will cry crocodile tears after each

beating. "Honey, I'm so sorry, I will never hit you again, please forgive me."

And she will too, until the next time, for abuse is always cyclical, occurring over and over again over a period of weeks, months, years, but it never goes away."

Many refuse to leave, thinking that they cannot exist without their partner. But the signs are there, withdrawn, making excuses not to be with friends or family, showing an extreme change in personality, sometimes seeming to be too happy all the time as a cover up, always being tracked by their husbands especially on the cell phone, having a jealous partner who has a bad temper.

All these and more are the indications of women who suffer from Beaten Women Syndrome.

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.



Fall Cargo & Shipping



October is the start of the Fall shipping season. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's black household income for 2000 was a whopping \$32 Billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent 16 years. C.T. will spotlight the various shipping services available to them via Land, Air, and Sea to get their goods safely home in time for the season.

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Caribbean Roots Actress Stars In Zoe Kravitz' 'Blink Twice'

Caribbean roots star Naomi Sarah Ackie lit up the screen this weekend as 'Blink Twice,' the movie from Zoë Kravitz, opened in fourth place with \$7.3 million.

Ackie, 32, the daughter of second-generation immigrants from Grenada, stars opposite Kravitz' real life fiancée, Channing Tatum, who plays tech billionaire Slater King. He invites Ackie, who plays cocktail waitress and aspiring nail artist Frida, to join him and his friends on a dream vacation on his private island. Wild nights blend into sun-soaked days, and everyone's having a great time. plays cocktail waitress and aspiring nail artist Frida, who ventures to the island alongside friend Jess, (Alia Shawkat) and strangers Sarah, (Adria Arjona), Camilla, (Liz Caribel), and Heather, (Trew Mullen). Their host, Slater, is a fresh off of an apology tour from some kind



Caribbean roots star Naomi Sarah Ackie, r., in *Blink Twice*. (Screen grab/*Blink Twice*)

of undisclosed misconduct and claims he's a changed man.

When the guests arrive, their phones are collected, they're given matching linen dresses and swimsuits, and then the booze, drugs, and gourmet

delights come out. What could go wrong? As it turns out, plenty. Jess goes missing, the maid (María Elena Olivares) keeps repeating cryptic phrases ("red rabbit"?). Manipulations and abuse rise to the surface. Soon Frida, like Daniel Kaluuya's Chris in *Get Out*, goes from cheery to petrified — and joins forces with the other women to plot bloody revenge.

Blink Twice reportedly cost a modest \$20 million to produce before marketing and received a B- CinemaScore from audiences. The film is from MGM and Amazon, with Warner Bros. handling overseas.

Ackie, born in London, is known for her television roles as Bonnie in *The End of the F***ing World* (2019) and Master of None (2021) and for her role as Jannah in the film *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019). In 2022, she portrayed American singer Whitney Houston in the biopic 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody.'

Her father was a Transport for London employee and her mother worked for the National Health Service. She is one of three children and has an older brother and sister. She went to Walthamstow School for Girls.

Her first role was at the age of 11, playing the angel Gabriel in a school nativity play. She studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and graduated in 2012.

Blink Twice was shot in Yucatán, Mexico. Ackie plays

cocktail waitress and aspiring nail artist Frida, who ventures to the island alongside friend Jess (Alia Shawkat) and strangers Sarah (Adria Arjona), Camilla (Liz Caribel), and Heather (Trew Mullen). Their host, Slater, is a fresh off of an apology tour from some kind of undisclosed misconduct and claims he's a changed man. When the guests arrive, their phones are collected, they're given matching linen dresses and swimsuits, and then the booze, drugs, and gourmet delights come out. What could go wrong?

As it turns out, plenty. Jess goes missing, the maid (María Elena Olivares) keeps repeating cryptic phrases ("red rabbit"?). Manipulations and abuse rise to the surface. Soon Frida, like Daniel Kaluuya's Chris in *Get Out*, goes from cheery to petrified — and joins forces with the other women to plot bloody revenge.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Shaggy Revives Vintage Dancehall With New 'Badman' Riddim Project

Grammy-winning reggae singer Shaggy is taking fans on a nostalgic ride through vintage Dancehall with the release of three new singles from the highly anticipated "Badman" riddim project.

Produced by Shaggy and Shane Hoosong in collaboration with VP Records and Ranch Entertainment, the project offers a fresh take on the iconic 1980s "Gunman" riddim by legendary producer Henry 'Junjo' Lawes. The first two singles, by Olaf Blackwood featuring Shaggy and Junior Cat, dropped on August 22nd.

The single, "Selector Pull It," celebrates Dancehall's lively party culture. The track captures the vibrant atmosphere of Dancehall events, urging DJs to keep the energy alive by replaying crowd favorites. The music video, directed by Jay Will, transports viewers to an authentic Dancehall party in Kingston, Jamaica, with cameos from icons like Bounty Killer, Gyptian, and DJ Boom Boom.

Shaggy, managed by Martin Kierszenbaum/Cherrytree Music Company, debuted the song during a live performance on On the Radar Radio in late July. Reflecting on the project, Olaf Blackwood said, "The 'Gunman' riddim was one of my go-tos for stage shows as a youngster. Co-writing this song with Shaggy and bringing it full circle has been an amazing experience."

Shaggy shared his admiration for Junjo Lawes, saying, "His music was synonymous with the sound system movement of the '80s and '90s. I wanted to

recreate that vibe while adding some new ideas."

The second single, "Rude Bwoy Sumthin," by Junior Cat, also dropped on August 22. Known as "The Wild Indian," Junior Cat is a veteran of the sound system scene. His track pays homage to the original gangster persona of Dancehall, delivering raw energy and vivid storytelling.

Fans can also look forward to the release of Spice's track on September 12th, as well as additional songs from the "Badman" riddim series. This latest collaboration between VP Records and Ranch Entertainment follows the success of Shaggy's 2023 soca-inspired EP, *In The Mood*.

The "Gunman" riddim, known for its heavy brass and unforgettable drum and bass, gained fame as the instrumental behind Michael Prophet's hit "Gunman," a defining track of early '80s Dancehall. With the "Badman" riddim series, Shaggy aims to blend nostalgia with a modern twist, inviting a new generation of Dancehall lovers to experience the energy and culture of that era. Like traditional "juggling" projects, the series will feature multiple artists interpreting the same instrumental in their unique styles.

Stay tuned for more details on the "Badman" riddim project as Shaggy continues to innovate and honor Dancehall's rich legacy.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Jamaica's Musical Impact: 50 Years On

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Fifty years ago, music by Jamaican artistes exploded in the United Kingdom with an edgy album that took the world by storm, and two songs that topped the British national chart. That album was 'Natty Dread' by Bob Marley and The Wailers, and the songs were 'Kung Fu Fighting' from Carl Douglas and 'Everything I Own' by Ken Boothe.

The Jamaican artists struck a nerve with a British society transformed by immigrants, thousands of them from the Caribbean. Douglas, who moved to the UK as a teenager, tapped into the international martial arts craze with the funky 'Kung Fu Fighting,' which went number one for three weeks in September. It also topped the US pop chart.

In an interview with the Jamaica Observer recently, Douglas said he was confident it would be a mega hit.

"I knew from the outset that the song would have become a hit. I did martial arts while I was in university in London, so I knew a thing or two about it. The kids were also very much involved in it, so it was quite popular back then," he recalled.

'Kung Fu Fighting,' went number one in Australia, Austria, Canada, The Netherlands and South Africa. It has been sampled multiple times by acts such as CeeLo Green.

Boothe went to number one

in October with 'Everything I Own,' recorded in Kingston, Jamaica at Federal Studio. Produced by Lloyd Charmers, it was a reggae version of blue-eyed soul track done two years earlier by American duo, Bread.

Distributed in the UK by all-reggae label Trojan Records, Boothe's version appealed to a diverse audience who were also into rock, as well as the emerging punk and disco genres. Anthony "Chips" Richards, then a marketing executive at Trojan, helped break 'Everything I Own' in the UK.

"Getting in the charts took a lot of strategy. First, we serviced it to the 360 record stores across the UK and then we got into the local radio stations. You've got to remember, reggae didn't have a mainstream audience," Richards explained in a 2017 interview.

Boothe's take on 'Everything I Own,' remains popular at oldies dances throughout the Jamaican Diaspora. Boy George revived the song in 1987, his version topping the UK chart for two weeks in March that year.

October also saw the release of 'Natty Dread' by Island Records. It was Marley's first album minus Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston, who were his colleagues in the original Wailers. The trio recorded two albums — 'Catch A Fire,' and 'Burnin,' for Island, a London-based

company founded in 1959 in Kingston by Chris Blackwell.

Recorded in Kingston, 'Natty Dread' was a revelation. Marley's militancy on songs like 'So Jah Seh,' 'Rebel Music' (3 O'Clock Roadblock),' and the title song was complimented by his poignant delivery on 'No Woman No Cry,' an ode to his years living in the Kingston ghetto of Trench Town.

'Natty Dread' is one of British journalist and reggae historian, John Masouri's favourite albums.

"I first heard extracts from Natty Dread at that year's Notting Hill Carnival, when (sound system) Sir Coxson played songs like Rebel Music and a revamped Lively Up Yourself on dubplate over and over until they became imprinted on our consciousness like (the) Holy Scripture," he told Caribbean Today recently. "Two months after Carnival, Island Records released the Natty Dread LP with that striking portrait of Marley on the cover, staring out at us from an apocalyptic landscape. A new day had dawned and the impact of such music and the culture that birthed it would change the face of popular music — not only in Britain, but worldwide."

Marley died in May, 1981 from cancer at age 36. Douglas, now 82, lives in Hamburg, Germany while Boothe, 76, lives in Kingston.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Spice Celebrates 25 Years In Dancehall With New Album

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Jamaican music has never been short of women who walk on the wild side. Sister Nancy, Lady G, Shelly Thunder, Sister Charmain, Macka Diamond and Lady Saw made their mark with hard-hitting, risqué songs. So has Spice.

The feisty deejay is celebrating her 25th year in the music business and her latest album, 'Mirror 25,' has entered several reggae charts since its release on August 6th. 'Mirror 25' contains a hefty 26 songs including collaborations with Ky-Mani Marley, Busta Rhymes, Jada Kingdom, Pamputtie and Patoranking.

"This body of work is very diverse. I wanted to give every aspect of my artistry and take my fans on a journey of different sounds infused with reggae/dancehall," said Spice. She added that the music industry has changed considerably since she debuted as a recording artist in 2003.

"I was saying the other day to someone that dancehall has evolved especially when it comes to women having their own segment in the dance. I remember the days of having to stand next to a (sound system) selector just to have my song played," she stated. "I would also preach that the women need their own segment and to see it today,



Spice is expected to be one of the high-profile acts on Vybz Kartel's highly-anticipated comeback show in St. Ann parish, Jamaica.

I feel like I was a part of that."

Spice followed the path of Lady Saw, now known as gospel artist Minister Marion Hall, by establishing herself with a series of bawdy songs such as 'Romping Shop,' 'Needle Eye,' 'Gum,' 'Inches,' and 'Go Down Deh.'

'Romping Shop,' released in 2009, is a collaboration with Vybz Kartel, the controversial deejay who was recently released from a Jamaican prison last month, after serving 13 years for murder. Kartel, who was sentenced to a life sentence in 2011, was freed after the Privy Council in the United Kingdom ruled that the case against him and his three co-accused was tainted by jury tampering.

The 42 year-old Spice

made her name as a member of his Gaza Empire. She has high marks for Kartel, arguably the most flamboyant artist in dancehall history.

"I'm motivated by his work ethic. He would record 50 songs a day without writing them down on paper. Dem man deh work ethic nuh normal," she said.

Born Grace Latoya Hamilton, Spice is from Spanish Town, Jamaica's first capital. Influenced by Shabba Ranks, Bounty Killer, Cham and Shaggy, her first song 'Complain,' was released in 2003.

Shaggy acted as executive producer for 10, her 2021 debut album which was nominated for a Grammy for Best Reggae Album the following year. Featuring guest appearances from Shaggy and Sean Paul, 10 earned her slots on Good Morning America and Jimmy Kimmel Live!

Spice was also a regular on the VH1 reality show, Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta, which enhanced her appeal with the American mainstream.

On January 1, 2025, Spice is expected to be one of the high-profile acts on 'Freedom Street,' Vybz Kartel's highly-anticipated comeback show at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica.



Jamaican Actor Christopher 'Johnny' Daley Gears Up for Global Performances and HBO Role

"I believe that one of Jamaica's greatest untapped creative resources is the incredible acting talent that resides in our beautiful little island. I think the time has come to unleash that resource. And I'm ready for the moment - and ready for the world." These are the words of award-winning, Jamaican born actor, comedian, and former child star, Christopher 'Johnny' Daley, as he embarks on a new chapter in his illustrious career. Christopher Daley, known for his iconic role as 'Johnny,' on the beloved Jamaican television series Lime Tree Lane, is gearing up for several international performances and a featured role in a highly anticipated television series co-produced by HBO and the UK's Channel 4.

Daley will headline The Kings of Jamaican Comedy event in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on Sunday, August 25th, as part of Boston's Carnival Weekend celebrations at Kay's Oasis is located at 1125 Blue Hill Avenue, Boston Massachusetts, 02124.

Reflecting on Jamaica's global influence in areas like music, athletics, fashion, and beauty, Christopher Daley emphasized that the country's actors are yet to receive their full recognition on the world stage. "We've given the world the Marleys, Shaggys, and Sean Pauls, as well as Usain Bolts, Asafa Powells, and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryces. We've had four Miss Worlds. But in the realm of film, theater, and television performance, we have yet to fully set the world ablaze," Daley explained. "Icons such as Sheryl Lee Ralph and the late Madge Sinclair have left an indelible mark on the industry. Now, with the increasing interest in Jamaican stories told by Jamaican actors, I'm excited to be part of that renaissance and see what the future holds."

Daley's excitement extends to his upcoming role in Get Millie Black, a crime drama surrounding Jamaican-born detective Millie Black, who returns to Kingston after working for Scotland Yard. Daley plays Detective Lance Stennet, whose tense relationship with Millie Black intensifies the drama. Daley described the character as "ambitious, tenacious, and serious about policing," adding that the role allows him to explore the complex dynamics between the two detectives.

In addition to his work on Get Millie Black, Daley has a busy schedule of live performances. After his appearance in Boston, he will perform at the Premier Restaurant and Lounge in Lithonia, Georgia,



Jamaican born actor Christopher 'Johnny' Daley. (Photo courtesy of Travis Muschett)

on October 13 for the Laugh A Ton event. He will also take the stage at the annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival in South Florida on November 10. Back home in Jamaica, he will appear at the Grace Food Festival in Hope Gardens on August 24 and continues to host the popular Johnny Live Comedy Bar at his venue, Johnny's Place, every Tuesday night.

Reflecting on his journey, Daley shared how his early mischief as a primary school student led him to join the school's drama club, eventually landing him the lead role in his first play and a summer scholarship to The Jamaica School of Drama. It was there that he met television writer Melita Samuels, who cast him in Lime Tree Lane. The show's popularity made Daley a household name across Jamaica, and he embraced the nickname 'Johnny' from his character on the show.

Decades later, Daley has successfully transitioned from child star to acclaimed actor, with nearly forty major stage productions under his belt and screen appearances in films like One Love and Kingston Paradise. He has worked alongside some of Jamaica and the Caribbean's most celebrated icons, earning accolades such as the International Theatre Institute (Jamaica) Actor Boy Award for Best Actor.

Though he juggles a demanding career, Daley remains committed to carving out time for his family, including his three children. Looking ahead, he is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, particularly with the growing interest in Jamaican-themed projects in Jamaica and abroad.

"There is a movement happening right now, and you can feel it," Daley said. "At long last, Jamaican actors are going to start getting our due. And for me, while Jamaica will always be home, I'm willing to go wherever the work is. We've been waiting for this moment for a long time. I'm going to make the most of it."

For more information on The Kings of Jamaican Comedy event, call 508-882-2566.

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Caribbean Roots James Beard-Nominated Chef To Open Afro-Caribbean Restaurant In Houston

Caribbean roots and James Beard-nominated chef Tristen Epps is set to bring a new Afro-Caribbean dining experience to Houston, Texas. The 36-year-old chef plans to open Buboy, an Afro-Caribbean tasting menu restaurant, sometime next year, according to the Houston Chronicle. This move aligns with the growing recognition of Black chefs in America, such as Kwame Onwuachi with his acclaimed Tatiana in New York and the Senegalese tasting menu spot Dakar NOLA in New Orleans, who are gaining accolades for crafting food inspired by their heritage on their own terms.

Chef Epps, born to Trinidadian parents, developed a passion for cooking during his childhood, which was marked by global travel with his mother, who served in the military. His experiences in countries like Guam, Japan, and the Philippines nurtured his love for international flavours, immersing himself in diverse food cultures at a young age. His culinary journey has since taken him across the United States and to three continents, constantly expanding his knowledge and appreciation for new flavours.

Epps holds a bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts and Food & Beverage Industry Management from Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, NC. He further honed his skills



Caribbean roots Chef Tristen Epps. (Instagram image)

through a rigorous three-year apprenticeship at The Greenbrier under the guidance of AFC Certified Master Chef Richard Rosendale. His career then led him to various restaurants across the U.S., and in 2014, he competed on ABC's The Taste, where he caught the attention of celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson. Samuelsson became his mentor, inviting him to New York City to work at the renowned Red Rooster in Harlem. During his tenure under Samuelsson, Epps took on projects in London, Sweden, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. After gaining experience as Executive Chef at Cooks & Captains in Brooklyn and working in Denver for two years, Epps reunited with Samuelsson to lead the kitchen at Red Rooster's Miami location

in the historic Overtown neighbourhood.

Under Epps' leadership, Red Rooster Miami received recognition from the Michelin Guide and was named one of the Top 12 Best New Restaurants in the World by Condé Nast Traveler. The restaurant was also celebrated as the Best Restaurant in Miami. Epps' personal accolades include being named a Rising Star Chef by Star Chefs of America in 2021, recognized among the Top 20 Under 40 Most Professional in Miami by Brickell Magazine in 2022, and honoured as one of the 40 Under 40 Black Professionals by Legacy Magazine in 2023.

Epps has since moved on to run the culinary program at South Beach's Eden Roc Hotel, where his restaurant, Ocean Social by Tristen Epps, earned him a James Beard Semi-Finalist nomination for Best Chef South in 2024.

Known as a natural leader and mentor, Epps is dedicated to fostering creativity and uplifting others. He is a passionate advocate for underrepresented voices, using his platform to bring attention to the modern evolution of Black Diaspora cuisine and other cultural influences that have shaped American food traditions.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



2024 Taste of Lauderdale Lakes Festival to Celebrate Food, Music, Arts, and Culture

The City of Lauderdale Lakes is gearing up for the highly anticipated 2024 Taste of Lauderdale Lakes Food, Music, Arts & Culture Festival. The event is set to take place on Saturday, September 14th, 2024, from 6 PM to 11 PM at the Vincent Torres Memorial Park. This annual celebration, originally founded by the late City Manager Phil Alleyne, brings together residents, business owners, and visitors for a night of culinary delights and cultural enrichment in the "We Care" City.

This year's festival promises an exciting line-up of activities for all ages, including live painting and art displays, food tastings from some of Lauderdale Lakes' most celebrated vendors, and cooking demonstrations from top local chefs. Attendees can also enjoy a mixology demonstration, sample Uncle Nearest whiskey, receive

free health screenings, and even register to vote on-site.

The Taste of Lauderdale Lakes is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Uncle Nearest, Lipstick Royalty, and ThatDJChris. Their contributions have helped transform the event into a standout celebration of the city's rich cultural and culinary diversity.

The event is cashless. Tickets are available through Eventbrite by searching for "Taste of Lauderdale Lakes." General Admission tickets are priced at \$20, while All Access tickets, which offer additional perks, are available for \$40.

For more information, visit the official websites at lauderdaledelakes.org or tasteoflauderdaledelakes.com, or contact the Parks & Human Services Department at (954) 535-2785.



Celebrate Belize With Fry Jacks



As we get ready to celebrate Belize's independence, we take you on a culinary tour to Belize where we spotlight on one of the Belizean delicacies – fried jacks. Fry jacks are deep fried dough pieces that can be shaped in squares, circles or triangles. They are like salt bakes in Guyana and similar to bake in Trinidad or Johnny cake in Antigua. They are usually served at breakfast

with refried beans, eggs, cheese, bacon or ham and fresh fruits. Here's what you will need to make it.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1-½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable shortening
- 1-½ cup water
- Vegetable oil for frying

METHOD

Sift flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl.

Add shortening into a flour mix. Add water, a little at a time, to make a soft, but not sticky dough.

Divide dough into two rounds.

Let rest for 15 to 20 minutes.

Lightly flour countertop. Roll dough out to about 10 to 12 inches round.

Cut lengthwise into 2 to 3-inch strips and then crosswise to desired size.

Make sure the oil is very hot for fluffy jacks.

Fry on each side until golden brown.

Drain off excess oil on paper towel and serve with eggs, bacon etc.

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CARICOM Urges Vigilance Over Mpox Outbreak

CARICOM nations are emphasizing the importance of heightened vigilance within the Caribbean Community following the recent declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the outbreak of mpox, specifically the more transmissible clade 1b.

Mpox, a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, can spread through direct contact with infected individuals, animals, or contaminated materials. The current outbreak has seen a surge in cases, particularly in the Democratic Republic of

the Congo and surrounding nations, with the potential for global spread. Although no cases of mpox clade 1b have been reported within the Caribbean Community as of August, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has stressed the importance of enhanced surveillance to quickly identify and respond to any potential cases.

Chair of CARICOM, Grenada PM Dickon Mitchell, urged all citizens to stay informed by following updates from CARPHA and local health authorities regarding mpox and its transmission.

"It is crucial to be vigilant for any unusual rashes or lesions, particularly if individuals have recently traveled to regions with reported mpox cases," he said. "Anyone experiencing symptoms should seek immediate medical attention, and reporting any suspicious cases to local health authorities will be key to enabling further epidemiological investigations. As Heads of Government, we remain committed to supporting our Ministries of Health in Member States and Associate Members to strengthen surveillance and implement effective public health strategies to raise awareness about mpox and ensure our collective preparedness."

The CARICOM Secretariat



will collaborate with CARPHA to coordinate a regional and international response. CARPHA will continue working with Member States and CARICOM IMPACS to

monitor incoming passengers and facilitate the rapid identification of potential cases.



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Florida Department Of Health Offers Credit Monitoring After Cyber Attack

The Florida Department of Health is offering credit monitoring and identity protection services to individuals whose personal data may have been compromised in a cyber attack that occurred in June. The department has begun notifying those potentially affected by the breach.

According to a statement, the security breach led to unauthorized access to a wide range of sensitive information,

including names, birthdates, addresses, Social Security numbers, banking and credit card details, driver's license and passport numbers, medical history, insurance information, and even passwords.

Individuals impacted by the breach have been sent detailed letters outlining what specific personal information was accessed. The attack took place on June 26th, and the department stated that it is

actively collaborating with law enforcement and cyber-security experts to investigate and mitigate the damage.

To support affected individuals, the department is partnering with Kroll, a company specializing in identity-monitoring services, to offer credit monitoring and other protective measures.



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Secure These Cruise Deals Before They're Gone

Princess Cruises has announced its largest summer Caribbean cruise season ever for 2026. With over 90 voyages scheduled, guests can explore every region of the Caribbean aboard the Regal Princess and Caribbean Princess ships, departing from Ft. Lauderdale/Port Everglades and Port Canaveral in Florida.

Bookings are now open for these cruises, offering travellers a variety of exciting itineraries from the two Florida ports. Key highlights of the summer 2026 Caribbean season include:

From Port Canaveral:

Six-day Eastern Caribbean with Turks and Caicos: Nassau, Amber Cove, Grand Turk – May 11, 2026.

Seven-day Eastern Caribbean with Turks and Caicos: Nassau, Princess Cays, Amber Cove, Grand Turk – Multiple sailings from May to October 2026.

Seven-day Western Caribbean with Mexico: Cozumel, Costa Maya, Roatán – May 24, 2026, and more dates through September.

Seven-day Eastern



Caribbean with Puerto Rico: San Juan, Amber Cove, Grand Turk – May 31, 2026, and additional dates through October.

From Ft. Lauderdale:

Eight-day Southern Caribbean with ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao – April 3, 2026, featuring extended port stays with the "More Ashore" program.

Seven-day Eastern Caribbean with Bahamas: Princess Cays, Amber Cove, Grand Turk – April 11, 2026, and more dates through August.

Seven-day Western Caribbean

with Mexico: Cozumel, Belize City, Roatán – April 18, 2026, and additional sailings through August.

Seven-day Eastern Caribbean with St. Thomas: Princess Cays, San Juan, St. Thomas – April 25, 2026, and multiple dates through August. With this expanded summer schedule, Princess Cruises is offering travellers even more opportunities to experience the beauty and adventure of the Caribbean.



The Rosewood Hotels To Launch Luxury Exuma Retreat In The Bahamas

Exumas, a stunning Bahamian archipelago of 365 islands, is set to elevate its luxury offerings with the arrival of Rosewood Exuma. In a partnership between Rosewood Hotels & Resorts® and Yntegra Group, this exclusive retreat on East Sampson Cay promises to blend top-tier luxury with the natural beauty of the Exumas, creating an unforgettable experience for elite travelers and ocean enthusiasts.

Nestled within 124 acres of unspoiled paradise, Rosewood Exuma will feature 33 exquisitely designed suites with breathtaking views of the archipelago's renowned pink and white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters. Many suites will be located directly on the shoreline, allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the serene surroundings. Through Rosewood's A Sense of Place® philosophy, the resort will reflect the local culture, offering an authentic Bahamian experience.

Guests at Rosewood Exuma will have access to six unique dining options, showcasing local flavors and ingredients sourced from the resort's organic garden. The retreat will also house Rosewood's signature wellness concept, Asaya®, within a 20,000-square-foot sanctuary. Here, guests can indulge in treatments inspired by traditional Bahamian practices, utilizing six treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy facility, an outdoor pool, and a

fully equipped fitness center.

For adventure seekers, the resort will offer an outdoor sports center with tennis, padel, and pickleball courts, along with a range of watersports equipment. Families will appreciate the two pools, including a family-friendly option, and the Rosewood Explorers club, which engages children with activities that promote environmental awareness and creativity.

The resort's luxurious beach club will serve as a hub of relaxation, featuring a grill restaurant, beach and pool bars, and a private dining room. Sailing enthusiasts will enjoy two marinas capable of accommodating yachts up to 150 feet, perfect for exploring the surrounding islands.

Sustainability is at the heart of the Rosewood Exuma project, with only 25% of the island being developed to minimize environmental impact. The resort will incorporate eco-friendly construction practices, including the use of solar energy, to preserve the natural beauty of the Exumas and ensure a sustainable legacy for future generations.

Radha Arora, President of Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, expressed enthusiasm for the project, saying, "Rosewood Exuma will offer next-generation luxury, honoring the unique character of this pristine archipelago and inviting guests

on a journey of discovery and adventure."

Felipe MacLean, CEO of Yntegra Group, echoed this sentiment, adding, "This partnership reflects our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences while being responsible community partners in Exuma."

Although no completion or opening date has been announced, the Rosewood Exuma retreat is poised to be a transformative addition to the Caribbean luxury landscape, merging elegance with environmental responsibility in one of the world's most beautiful destinations.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaica And Brazil Forge Historic Tourism Partnership

The Jamaica-based Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre, (GTRCMC), has forged a historic partnership with Brazil's Ministry of Tourism, signing a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU), to strengthen tourism resilience across various sectors. The MOU, formalized earlier this week in São Luís, Brazil, covers several key areas of cooperation, including climate resilience in tourism, entrepreneurial tourism resilience, tourism security resilience, and pandemic resilience in the industry.

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett, who signed the agreement alongside his Brazilian counterpart, Hon. Celso Sabino, and Governor of Maranhão, Carlos Brandão, highlighted the significance of

the collaboration. "Building resilience has become the foundation on which sustainability can be achieved. Together, Minister Sabino and I will establish an intellectual institution to develop resilience and empower stakeholders to overcome challenges swiftly, using the best information, ideas, and innovations," Minister Bartlett stated.

As part of the agreement, a GTRCMC satellite centre will be established at the University of San Luis in September 2024. The launch will coincide with the G20 Tourism Ministers' meeting, where Minister Bartlett is expected to present on the topics of tourism resilience and sustainability.



U.S. and Dominican Republic Sign Historic Open Skies Agreement

The United States and the Dominican Republic have signed a landmark Open Skies Agreement, aimed at enhancing bilateral aviation cooperation and expanding air travel between the two nations. The agreement was formalized at a ceremony at the National Palace in Santo Domingo, where U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Jose W. Fernandez, and Dominican Republic Minister of Tourism, David Collado, signed the deal.

This new agreement will take effect after completing the necessary internal procedures in both countries and is set to elevate civil aviation standards between the U.S. and the Dominican Republic to modern levels. It promises to strengthen economic ties, expand tourism,

and create new opportunities for airlines, travel companies, and travellers.

"This Agreement with the Dominican Republic will expand our strong economic and commercial partnership, promote people-to-people ties, and create new opportunities for airlines, travel companies, and customers. Air carriers will be able to provide more affordable, convenient, and efficient air services to travellers and shippers, promoting tourism and commerce. The Agreement will also commit both governments to high standards of aviation safety and security," the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

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SCAN ME

FEATURE



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Miami-Dade County Renames Cultural Center After Long-Time Director



Marshall Davis Sr., c. with l-r: Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs Marialaura Leslie, Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade Commissioner Marleine Bastien and Miami-Dade Commission Chair Oliver Gilbert, III. (Contributed image)

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Thousands gathered on August 1st to honor Marshall L. Davis Sr., the long-time director of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, as the facility at 6161 N.W. 22nd Avenue in the Model City area was renamed in his honor. The newly christened Marshall L. Davis African Heritage Cultural Arts Center celebrated its namesake with performances by artists whose dreams Davis had helped foster.

Founded in 1975, the center has played a pivotal role in nurturing talent in the arts. Alumni like Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien and Miami-Dade Police Director Stephanie Daniels paid tribute to Davis, acknowledging his profound impact on their

lives and careers.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Commissioner Keon Hardemon, and Cultural Affairs Department Director Marialaura Leslie led the renaming ceremony, praising Davis for his four decades of service. Under his leadership since 1983, the center has become a beacon for the arts, inspiring countless individuals, including Barry Jenkins, director of the Oscar-winning film *Moonlight*.

Mayor Levin Cava commended Davis for his unwavering commitment to the community. "Renaming this institution after the man who

has animated it for 40 years is a fitting tribute," she said. Commissioner Hardemon echoed these sentiments, highlighting Davis's role in empowering young talent.

Davis expressed his gratitude, saying, "It's an honor to have the center renamed after me. I'm humbled by the love and support shown today."

The ceremony also featured a special performance by Davis's son, Marshall Davis Jr., who showcased his tap-dancing skills, earning a standing ovation from the audience.



Marshall Davis Jr. tap dancing at the renaming ceremony. (Contributed image)

Local Cities, Belize, Trinidad And Tobago Communities To Celebrate Independence Anniversaries



Miramar's Mayor recently signed a sister city agreement with Belize City. The agreement was signed on August 21st at Miramar City Hall in front of distinguished officials from Belize City and Miramar. (Facebook image)

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

South Florida will experience a celebration like no other this month, with a host of events to commemorate the independence of two Caribbean nations: Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

Carnivals, parades, unique costumes, food, music and entertainment will be part of the festivities as local cities and organizations with Belize and Trinidad and Tobago cultural ties will mark the special countries independence anniversaries. Belize achieved its independence on September 21, 1981 from Britain, while August 31, 1962 marked the independence of Trinidad and Tobago.

The cities of Miramar, North Miami, Miami, Miami Gardens, Homestead and Fort Lauderdale, just to name a few, have plans on deck for the independence celebrations.

Miramar took Belize's cultural ties to a new level when the city, which constitutes a large Caribbean American population, and Belize City, Belize signed a sister city agreement which allows the two parties to exchange cultural, educational, business and technical and academic institutions.

The agreement was signed on August 21st at Miramar City Hall in front of distinguished officials from Belize City and Miramar.

Michael D. Young, president and executive director of Belize American Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement: "Finally, through the grace of God and a little bit of luck and timing, and with the support of the other stakeholders involved, we were successful in convincing the City of Miramar's leadership and their economic development department, as well as the counterparts with the Belize City Council the current mayor, and his team and his city council to explore the possibility of this sister city relationship."

As part of the Sister City agreement, Miramar will celebrate Belize Independence with a Flag Fete on September 14th at with a

time and location to be announced at a later date.

The venue was designed to celebrate the diverse cultures in South Florida through a mix of art, food, music, shopping and entertainment.

For Belize's 43rd Independence celebration, local Belizean communities in Miami will organize gatherings including cultural parades and parties at several locations in the Magic City.

On September 21st, the events will showcase Belizean culture, music and dance and food stalls offering traditional Belizean cuisine.

North Miami also will be in the spirit to celebrate Belize's freedom with a Belize Independence Flag Fete on September 14th and 15th at 8 p.m., at NoMI Village, 12551 N.W. 7th Avenue. The event will feature music, cultural displays and other festivities for the celebration.

The cities of Miami Gardens and Homestead are also celebrating Belize's 43rd independence with an array of festivities including parades and concerns, reflecting the country's rich heritage and vibrant culture on September 14th.

Fort Lauderdale is also doing its part to celebrate Belize's independence by hosting the nation's Independence Fete on Wednesday, September 18th, starting at 5 p.m. at the Venue Ft. Lauderdale, 2345 Wilton Drive. The event features music, dancing and Belize cultural displays featuring DJ Puffy and a RedBull Thre3style World Champion. The local celebrations also reflect Belize's years of struggle to achieve its independence in 1981.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

For Trinidad and Tobago Independence celebration, Miramar hosted an event on August 31st at the Miramar City Hall Plaza, where hundreds turned out to celebrate with food trucks, music, games and other festivities.

Trinidad and Tobago gained independence from British colonial rule on August 31, 1962.



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Jamaica's Omar McLeod And Kadrian Goldson Shine At Tampere Motonet Grand Prix 2024



Omar McLeod, the 2016 Olympic champion, showed his resilience in the 110m hurdles, securing victory with a time of 13.47 seconds.

The 2024 Tampere Motonet Grand Prix in Finland lit up recently with electrifying performances from Jamaica's Omar McLeod and Kadrian Goldson, while Britany Anderson continued her inspiring comeback journey with a podium finish in the 100m hurdles.

Omar McLeod, the 2016 Olympic champion, showed his resilience in the 110m hurdles, securing victory with a time of 13.47 seconds despite battling a stiff headwind of -1.1m/s. McLeod's return to competition, following a break since the Jamaican national championships in June where he clocked a season-best of 13.22, underscored his champion's spirit and

determination.

Admitting he felt "rusty," McLeod still managed to comfortably outpace Finland's Elmo Lakka, who finished second in 13.72 seconds, and Manuel Mordi, who took third in 13.78 seconds. "It was very good. I haven't run in two months, so it feels good to get this race in before the Diamond League next week," McLeod said, flashing his signature smile. "The conditions weren't ideal, but it was a great race, and I finished healthy. It feels good to be out here again."

Adding to the day's highlights, McLeod's training partner, Britany Anderson, continued her impressive return from knee surgery with a strong

third-place finish in the 100m hurdles. Anderson, the 2022 World Championships silver medalist, clocked 12.97 seconds in a tightly contested race. Finland's Reetta Hurske won the event with a time of 12.87 seconds, followed by Mariam Abdul-Rashid in second at 12.96 seconds.

Jamaica's success didn't end there. Kadrian Goldson delivered

a thrilling performance in the men's 100m final, defeating his American rivals in a dramatic finish. After finishing second to J.T. Smith (10.18) in the preliminary round with a time of 10.21, Goldson came back determined to make his mark in the final.

In a nail-biting finish, Goldson surged ahead, crossing the line in 10.30 seconds,

narrowly beating Coby Hilton, who finished second in 10.31, and J.T. Smith, who placed third with a time of 10.33. Goldson's victory was a powerful statement of his ability to rise to the occasion when it mattered most, leaving his competitors trailing behind.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



Caribbean Olympian's Son Commits To University Of Texas

Amir Thompson, the 16-year-old son of Barbadian Olympian Obadele Thompson and American sprint legend Marion Jones, has committed to the University of Texas for the upcoming academic year. With remarkable personal bests of 10.50 seconds in the 100m and 21.12 seconds in the 200m, Amir is already making strides towards continuing his family's legacy in track and field. Amir's father, Thompson, is celebrated for his bronze medal win in the 100-m at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. His Olympic achievement followed an outstanding collegiate career at the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP), where he secured four individual NCAA sprint titles and set two NCAA records.

Obadele Thompson also broke world records in the 55m and the World Junior 100m. His impressive career earned him inductions into multiple Halls of Fame, including the UTEP Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2007 and the UTEP Athletics and Drake Relays Halls of Fame in 2011. Beyond his athletic success, Obadele graduated summa cum laude from UTEP in economics and marketing, later earning his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Texas School of Law. Today, he is a respected attorney specializing in international arbitration and litigation.



Amir Thompson, c., with his parents, Barbados Olympian Obadele Thompson, r., and American Olympian, Marion Jones.

Amir's mother, Marion Jones, was a dominant force in women's sprinting, winning gold at the 1997 World Championships in the 100m and again at the 1999 World Championships in Seville, Spain. Although her three gold medals and two bronze medals from the 2000 Sydney Olympics were eventually forfeited due to her involvement in the BALCO scandal, Marion remains a significant figure in the history of track and field.

Despite the challenges faced by his parents, Amir is charting his own course in athletics. His commitment to the University of Texas signals the start of an exciting new chapter in his athletic journey. With access to top tier coaching and state-of-the-art facilities, Amir is poised to make his mark on the sport.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



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SPORTS NEWS



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Shannon Gabriel Announces Retirement From International Cricket

West Indies fast bowler Shannon Gabriel has officially announced his retirement from international cricket, concluding a career that spanned over 12 years at the highest level of the sport.

In a heartfelt message shared on Instagram on Wednesday, Gabriel reflected on his journey. "For the past 12 years, I have dedicated myself to playing international cricket for the West Indies," he wrote. "Playing this beloved game at the highest level has brought me immense joy, but as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Today, I am announcing my retirement from international cricket."

Gabriel's career has



Shannon Gabriel

been marked by significant achievements, including 59 Test matches, 25 One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and two

T20 Internationals (T20Is), in which he amassed a total of 202 wickets. The 36-year-old last represented the West Indies

in July 2023 but has remained active in domestic cricket, continuing to play for Trinidad and Tobago.

Expressing his gratitude, Gabriel said, "Firstly, I would like to thank God for the numerous blessings and opportunities my family and I have received during my time playing for the West Indies. Secondly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Cricket West Indies administrators, coaches, and staff members. Words cannot adequately convey the appreciation I have for your hard work and support over the years."

He also paid tribute to his teammates and those who

supported him throughout his career, stating, "Last but not least, I am grateful to my teammates and all those who have stood by me and supported me along the way. You have made my journey to the top truly special."

Looking ahead, Gabriel says he plans to continue his involvement in cricket. "Moving forward, I plan to continue representing my country (Trinidad and Tobago), club, and franchise teams around the world with the same love and passion I have shown throughout my career," he concluded.

- CMC



Mason Greenwood Reportedly Eyeing Switch To Jamaica's Reggae Boyz

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Mason Greenwood, the controversial former Manchester United forward, may become a Reggae Boy, based on reports out of Jamaica. Under FIFA's rules, Greenwood, who represented England in 2020, is eligible to represent the Caribbean country because he was under 21 at the time.

The 22 year-old Greenwood, whose paternal grandparents are Jamaican,

plays for Olympique de Marseille in France. He was sacked by Manchester United in January, 2022 after allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman.

Shortly after being appointed Jamaica's head coach in early August, Englishman Steve McLaren hinted at reaching out to Greenwood to don the green, gold and black jersey of the Reggae Boyz.

Dennis Chung, general secretary of the Jamaica

Football Federation, (JFF), confirmed that Greenwood has started the paperwork to switch allegiance but nothing has been finalized.

"We are just going through the process and, as we've said before, we are definitely trying to get him to come here. My understanding is that he has a strong interest in representing us. I don't know exactly what stage the process is at right now, but I do know it's advanced; however, I'm not sure of the details," said Chung.

Although multiple rape charges against Greenwood were dropped in February, 2023, he lost his contract with Manchester United, putting a promising career in limbo. He joined Marseille last July in a deal worth a £30-million.

Carl Brown, who was head coach of the Jamaican team that qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France, hopes Greenwood will be part of the Reggae Boyz team when they continue their qualification campaign next year for the 2026 World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

"I've always said that any Jamaican anywhere in this

world who wants to represent our country should be given a chance. I have no objection once they meet the criteria," Brown, who lives in South Florida, told Caribbean Today. "Like everything, it's about preparation, and what kind of chemistry they will have when they get out on the field."

Brown was part of the Jamaican setup when JFF president Horace Burrell drafted three England-born players with Jamaican roots in the team circa 1995 to boost their chances of qualifying for France. Strikers Paul Hall and Deon Burton and midfielder Fitzroy Simpson contributed significantly to that historic campaign.

While those players had Jamaican roots, Brown said it was tough getting them to gel with the Jamaican players. That situation has changed in recent years with players who have similar backgrounds.



Mason Greenwood, 22, whose paternal grandparents are Jamaican, may play for the Reggae Boyz soon.

"We are in a time where social media brings everyone in the world very, very close. When these guys are coming to Jamaica, I'm certain they will make some inquiry about the place, so they won't be totally surprised when they get to Jamaica and see the culture there," he explained.

Jamaica is scheduled to continue their CONCACAF World Cup qualifying campaign in June, 2025.



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West Indies Win Over South Africa

Led by superb bowling performances from Romario Shepherd and Shamar Joseph, the West Indies pulled off a stunning 30-run victory against South Africa, securing the three-match T20 series with a game to spare.

After being sent in to bat, West Indies posted a competitive total of 179 for six in their 20 overs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Sunday, August 25th.

Man-of-the-Match Shepherd and Joseph then spearheaded a middle-order collapse, taking six wickets between them, as South Africa was bowled out for 149 with just two balls remaining in the match.

This win gave the home side an unassailable 2-0 series lead, following their seven-wicket victory in the opening T20 on Friday, August 23rd.

Despite the eventual outcome, South Africa seemed poised to level the series after a strong start to their run chase. Openers Ryan Rickelton, (20), and Reeza Hendricks, who top-scored with 44 off just 18 balls, powered South Africa to 63 in

under five overs. Hendricks was especially dominant, hammering off-spinner Roston Chase for two sixes and two fours in an over that yielded 23 runs.

However, Joseph made the breakthrough by having Rickelton caught at deep backward square by Matthew Forde, attempting a pull shot. Shepherd then claimed the crucial wicket of Hendricks, who had struck six fours and two sixes, as the batter dragged a wide ball onto his stumps, leaving South Africa at 71-2 in the sixth over.

Even after Shepherd trapped South African captain Aiden Markram lbw for 19, the visitors appeared in control with Tristan Stubbs and Rassie van der Dussen adding 43 runs, taking their total to 129-3 after 14 overs.

But in a dramatic collapse, South Africa lost their final seven wickets for just 20 runs. Stubbs was caught at long-off by substitute fielder Fabian Allen for 28 off spinner Akeal Hosein, and five runs later, Donovan Ferreira was stumped off the bowling of Gudakesh Motie, reducing South

Africa to 134 for five.

Hosein also took the wicket of van der Dussen, (17), and when Bjorn Fortuin was bowled by Joseph, the visitors had tumbled to 144 for seven in the 17th over. Shepherd returned to claim his third wicket, with Patrick Kruger caught on the cover boundary by Shai Hope, and Joseph and Forde finished off the tail to seal the win.

Shepherd ended with outstanding figures of 3-15 from his four overs, while Joseph achieved his best-ever T20 figures of 3-31 from his four overs. Hosein contributed with 2-25.

Earlier, after losing the toss and being asked to bat on a flat, dry pitch, the West Indies got off to a steady start with openers Alick Athanaze and Hope putting on 41 runs together. Athanaze became the first of three wickets for South African bowler Lizaad Williams when he was caught at midwicket for 28, attempting a pull shot.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Sir Richie To Take Up Sports-Related Position In Antigua Government

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne has announced that Sir Richie Richardson, the celebrated former West Indies cricket captain, will be taking up a role within the government.

Although the specifics of his position are still being finalized, Sir Richie is expected to serve in a ministerial capacity, possibly as a junior minister, with a focus on sports development.

Prime Minister Browne revealed that discussions have been ongoing with Sir Richie regarding his potential involvement in the government. While Sir Richie currently serves as a match referee, Browne expressed confidence that he will find the time to contribute meaningfully to the nation's sports sector.

One of the key projects Sir Richie will be involved in is the revitalization of YASCO, the island's premier athletic facility. The government plans to invest several million dollars into upgrading the venue, which will include the installation of proper

bathroom facilities, stands, and a gym. This is part of a broader effort to provide athletes with the necessary infrastructure and support to excel in their respective sports.

The government is also considering implementing a nutrition program, complete with a nutritionist, to assist athletes and their families in optimizing their meal plans.

Sir Richie's extensive experience in sports, both as a cricketing legend and a multi-talented sportsman with exposure to football and golf, makes him an ideal candidate for this role. The Prime Minister is hopeful that with Sir Richie's leadership, Antigua and Barbuda's athletes will reach new heights of success, potentially even medalling at the next Olympics. Additionally, the initiative aims to improve the performance of the nation's cricketers, footballers, swimmers, and other athletes.

- Rewritten from CMC



Jamaican Olympic Gold Medallist And Last Survivor of 1952 Helsinki Relay Team, Dead at 97



FLASHBACK - George Rhoden winning the gold in the 400 meters at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. (Jamaica Gleaner image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

George Rhoden, a gold medallist over 400 meters at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, has passed away at the age of 97. Rhoden died on August 24th in California.

He also ran the anchor leg for Jamaica's celebrated 4x400 team, which won that event in Helsinki, Finland.

Rhoden, a graduate of Morgan State University in Maryland, was the last survivor of that team which also included Arthur Wint, Les Laing and Herb McKenley. Byron LaBeach, the team's reserve, also died.

Dr. Basil Bryan, a Jamaican track and field archivist, described Rhoden as a "fantastic athlete" who developed his talent while competing for Morgan State University in National Collegiate Athletics Association meets.

Unlike most Jamaican athletes who emerged at the annual Boys and Girls Athletics

Championships, known as 'Champs,' he competed in local meets in his native Kingston at Sabina Park cricket ground or nearby Racecourse where cycling meets were held. "He was pretty unheralded, he grew up in Kingston and attended Kingston Technical High School which did not compete at Champs because it was not an elite school. He was very much a self-motivator," said Bryan, who interviewed Rhoden extensively for his book, 'The Jamaicans: Children of God in The Promised Land.'

Rhoden competed at the 1948 Olympics in London. He was eliminated in the 100 meters heats and made the semi-finals of the 400 meters. The Jamaicans were contenders for the 4x400 meters relay but their chances floundered when Wint pulled a muscle.

Four years later in Helsinki, Rhoden won the 400 meters, defeating McKenley in the final. In 1954, he was a member of

Jamaica's teams which won the 4x100 meters and 4x400 meters relays at the Central American and Commonwealth Games in Mexico City.

A podiatrist, Rhoden practiced that profession in California after retiring from athletics during the late 1950s.

The Jamaica Administrative Athletics Association (JAAA)

hailed him as a trailblazer who paved the way for the country's current crop of stars.

"George Rhoden was one of the building blocks of our sport in Jamaica. He demonstrated true grit and determination in every single one of his races and was a dependable team member. He would grind out every event, giving everything for his

team and his country," JAAA president Garth Gayle said in a statement. "His performances in 1952 will always be remembered as they laid the groundwork for the strong track and field nation we are today. Sincere condolences to his family and friends. May his soul find eternal rest."



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