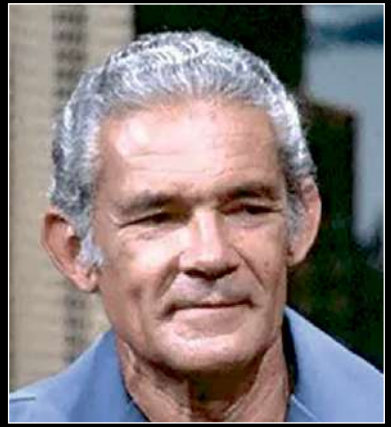


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Michael Manley's 100th To Be Marked In South Florida ... Page 5 (AP/Shutterstock.com image)



Street Named In Honor Of Bahamian American ... Page 7

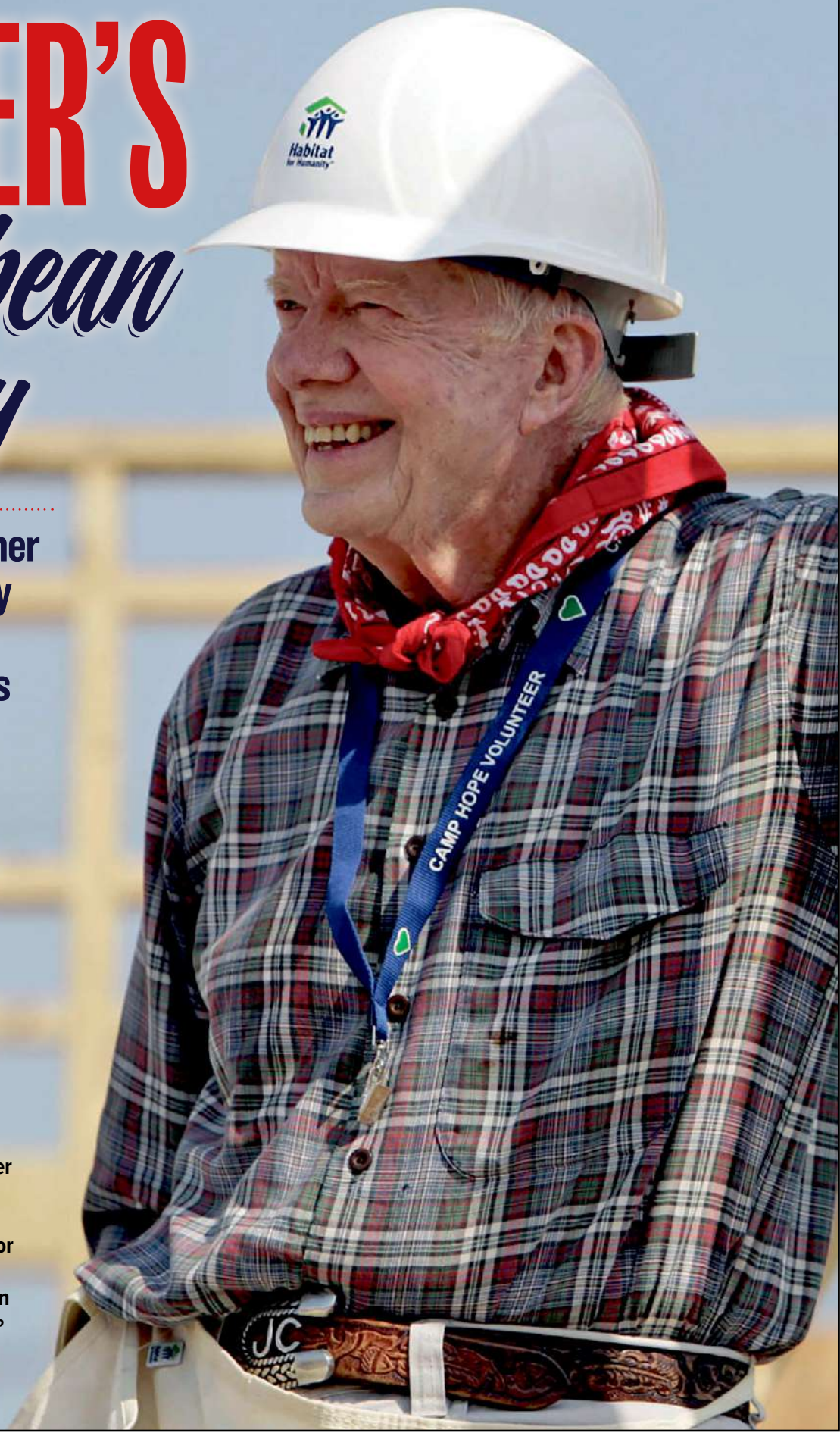


Remembering Dr. King ... Page 16 (Jamaica Gleaner image)

CARTER'S Caribbean Legacy

Remembering Former US president Jimmy Carter's Impact on Caribbean Relations ...Page 3

Former US president Jimmy Carter helped build a house in 2012, as he visited the construction site of houses built by Carter's Habitat for Humanity foundation for victims of the January 2010 earthquake in Leogane, Haiti. (THONY BELIZAIRE/AFP via Getty Images)



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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

The United States deported nearly 300 nationals from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, (OECCS) to their homeland during the period 2019-2024. Figures released by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report show that 297 people from the nine-member OECCS sub region were deported during that period.

According to the report, St Lucia topped the list with 62 deportees, followed by Dominica, 57; St Vincent and the Grenadines, 51 and Grenada with 40.

Washington returned 36 people from Antigua and Barbuda backed to their homeland with 29 from St Kitts -Nevis, 18 from the British Virgin Island and two from Anguilla. One person was deported to Montserrat during the period.

The report comes as Donald Trump vows to ramp up deportations this year.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

A state of emergency remains in effect in Trinidad and Tobago as the country wrapped up 2024 with over 625 murders. Under the emergency declara-

tion, members of the defense forces will be empowered to act as law enforcement officers, conducting raids without warrants. The order also suspends bail for suspects and allows the authorities to detain individuals for up to 48 hours without charges. This detention period can be extended for an additional seven days with court approval.

JAMAICA

Jamaica recorded 1, 138 murders for the period January 1 to December 28, 2024, according to figures released by the Jamaica Constabulary Force, (JCF).

It said that the figure is 18.5 per cent less than the total recorded for the comparative period last year, when the country recorded 1, 397 murders.

According to the JCF, most of the murders were recorded in Westmoreland 100, down from 116 last year, St. James 125, a 33.5 per cent decrease on the 188 recorded last year, 118 in St. Andrew South, down from 121 last year and 94 recorded in St. Catherine North, a decline of 223 per cent from the 121-figure recorded for the same period in 2023.



Murdered Antigua & Barbuda politician, Asot Michael, was given a state funeral last month that included full military honors and a gun salute.

SURINAME

Former president, Desi Bouterse, who died in late December, passed away due to liver disease, the Public Prosecution Service, (OM) has said.

The OM said that the report of the autopsy had been received from the pathologist and showed the cause of death to be complication of liver failure in severe liver fibrosis, caused by chronic alcohol use. Bouterse, who had been on the run since he was convicted and sentenced to 20

years in jail last December, died on Monday, December 23 at around 11.30 p.m. (local time).

The family and the National Democratic Party (NDP) that Bouterse founded held a funeral for him on January 4th. Foreign Affairs Minister, Albert Ramdin had said that Bouterse would not receive a state funeral.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic deported more than 276,000 Haitians in 2024, the country's Immigration Directorate. In the last three months of the year alone, over 94,000 people were deported under a new operation aiming to remove up to 10,000 undocumented Haitians per week, ordered by the Dominican Republic's National Security and Defense Council headed by President Luis Abinader.

Dominican authorities also deported 48,344 Haitians during the January-March quarter, 62,446 between April-June, and 71,414 from July to September.

GUYANA

Guyana will soon have its first Papa John's restaurant. Restaurant Brands Holdings Inc. (RBH) has secured exclusive franchise rights for Papa John's in Guyana, Suriname, Curaçao, and Aruba, marking a significant milestone in its mission to introduce globally renowned dining brands to the Caribbean and South America. Restaurant Brands Holdings Inc. is a leading franchise operator in Guyana, focused on introducing globally respected dining brands to the Caribbean and South America.

BAHAMAS

The Bahamas has unlocked over \$120 million for the conservation and sustainable management of its oceans and mangroves through an innovative debt-for-nature swap, supported by Standard Chartered and private sector partners. This marks a significant step toward addressing climate change and biodiversity loss in the region.

By leveraging a \$300 million lower-cost loan from Standard Chartered, The Bahamas repurchased \$215.7 million in Eurobonds and an \$81 million commercial bank loan. The resulting savings from reduced interest and principal payments will now fund ambitious ocean conservation initiatives.

ANTIGUA

Murdered long-time politician, Asot Michael, was honored at a memorial service on December 19, 2024, at Holy Family Cathedral, drawing a large gathering of family, friends, and political figures from across the spectrum.

The service celebrated Michael's extensive contributions to Antigua and Barbuda, particularly highlighting his reputation for generosity and dedication to public service. Michael's political career spanned nearly three decades, beginning after his return from studies abroad. His life came to a tragic end on November 5, when he was discovered deceased at his residence. Local authorities have charged 26-year-old Golden Grove resident Alexta Francis in connection with his death. Following the service, Michael was interred at the St. John's Public Cemetery with full military honors, including a gun salute.

GRENADA

The 2025 New Year Honors list has recognized nine distinguished Grenadians for their outstanding contributions to public life and service. Approved by King Charles III, the honorees have been appointed to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for their remarkable achievements across various fields.

Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.)

Diplomat Ruth Elizabeth Rouse: Honored for her exceptional contributions to public service.
Teddy Ronald St. Louis: Recognized for his significant work in public and legal services.

Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.)

Keith Emmanuel Richard Williams: Acknowledged for his dedication to culture.

Annie Lauretta Rush-Bain: Celebrated for her impactful service to the community.

Mc Donald Anthony Beresford Cadore: Honored for his outstanding contributions to education.

- Compiled from CMC News, Loop Caribbean and NewsAmericasnow.com



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Carter's Caribbean Legacy

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

As the world prepares to bid farewell on January 9th to the US' 39th President, James Earl Carter Jr., known to the world as Jimmy Carter, reflections on his legacy highlight his significant, though often underappreciated, contributions to U.S. relations with the Caribbean during his one-term as President. Throughout his presidency, (1977–1981), the Georgia-born Carter's policies shaped the region during a period of political transformation, emphasizing human rights, regional cooperation, and a cautious approach to Cold War dynamics. Jimmy Carter's presidency coincided with a pivotal era for the Caribbean.

A Focus on the Eastern Caribbean

Carter's Caribbean strategy centered on smaller states in the Eastern Caribbean, such as Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago, along with newly independent nations like Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. While larger nations like Haiti and the Dominican Republic had distinct challenges and Cuba was a unique case due to its communist regime, Carter sought to unite the smaller states into a cohesive bloc.

This vision aimed to foster regional stability and attract foreign investment without heavily relying on U.S. aid. Carter's administration encouraged these nations to work together under initiatives like the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, established in partnership with the World Bank. By 1980, this group had quadrupled foreign aid to the region to over \$1 billion.

The late 1970s saw the independence of several Eastern Caribbean states, political upheaval in Grenada, and the tragic Jonestown Massacre in Guyana. These events required the U.S. to make decisions that would shape its role in the region for decades.

Navigating Cold War Tensions

The Carter administration's Caribbean policy faced challenges as Cold War tensions influenced U.S. priorities. Robert Pastor, a National Security Council member, advocated for increased aid to counter Soviet and Cuban influence in the region. However, this view often clashed with other officials who questioned the significance of the Soviet threat in the Caribbean.

Carter's cautious approach was tested by events like the 1979 Marxist coup in Grenada and the discovery of a Soviet brigade in Cuba. Although the latter turned out to be an



Jimmy Carter in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, ahead of the 1990-91 elections there. (Photo: Thony Belizaire/AFP via Getty Images)

intelligence error, these incidents heightened security concerns and shifted attention toward the Caribbean's geopolitical importance.

Robert Pastor, a member of the National Security Council Staff who advocated a large, multilateral aid package for the Caribbean, ran into strong resistance from Roger Hansen, an NSC staffer who was unsure whether the Soviets were serious about expanding their influence in the region.

Pastor's pleas for more funding, however, received greater support from the NSC in 1979, after a series of events drew attention to security problems in the Caribbean. The scare of a "Soviet brigade" in Cuba turned out to be the result of an intelligence failure, but it nonetheless had significant implications for the region. The crisis, along with a Marxist coup in Grenada, drew the attention of policymakers who previously had not considered the Caribbean a priority.

Nonetheless, President Carter remained hesitant to commit a large amount of funding to the region, and in an October 1979 Presidential meeting, suggested his own regional policy, which emphasized limited public assistance from the United States, cast doubt on the importance of Cuban influence, and emphasized the role of the private sector

Cuba: Engagement and Obstacles

Carter's attempts to normalize relations with Cuba represented a bold departure from his predecessors. His administration reopened diplomatic channels, established interest sections in Havana and Washington, and negotiated agreements on fisheries and maritime boundaries. However, normalization efforts faltered due to Cuba's military involvement in Africa, which Carter publicly criticized.

Despite the setbacks, Carter made progress on humanitarian

fronts, including the release of political prisoners from Cuba. His efforts underscored a commitment to dialogue, even as ideological differences with Fidel Castro proved insurmountable.

Human Rights and Democracy in Haiti

Carter's human rights agenda was a cornerstone of his foreign policy, including in Haiti. He pressured Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to release political prisoners, laying the groundwork for Haiti's eventual democratization. Even after his presidency, Carter remained engaged, monitoring Haiti's first free elections in 1990 and advocating for democratic reforms. In 1990, he travelled to Haiti at the invitation of Provisional President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot to witness Haiti's first free and fair election as head of the Carter Center. Despite delays and difficulties, enthusiastic Haitians turned out in record numbers to mark the end of the Duvalier dictatorship and exercise their right to vote."

Engagement with Jamaica and Leftist States

Carter's relationship with Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley reflected the complexities of his regional policy. While initially skeptical of Manley's ties to Cuba, Carter resisted calls for aggressive intervention, favoring diplomatic engagement. This approach acknowledged the realities of Jamaica's political landscape while balancing U.S. strategic interests. On October 17, 1979, President Carter sent a handwritten note to Secretary of State Vance and Director of Central Intelligence Turner, that reads, "To Cy and Stan, Re: Jamaica. I'm afraid we may be on the verge of driving Manley and Jamaica irrevocably to Cuba. Let's reassess & see if we can't move Manley back toward us. He'll be P.M. until 1981—J.C."

In an October 19th meeting about the Caribbean and Central America, Carter revealed that he was initially inclined to "knock

the hell out of Manley and support a moderate group," but was dissuaded from that course of action during a conversation with Andrew Young, who insisted that "such a policy would be suicide in Jamaica, that Manley is in power until 1981 and he is too strong to be overthrown." Carter then stated he would be prepared to invite Manley to the White House for a visit if necessary, or perhaps send Andrew Young, former U.S. Representative to the United Nations, to Jamaica.

A Legacy of Transformation

Carter's initiatives laid a foundation for greater regional cooperation and economic development, even as his cautious approach drew criticism during the Cold War. His focus on human rights, multilateralism, and dialogue left an enduring impact, fostering a vision of the Caribbean as a unified and self-reliant region.

Post Presidency, Carter, through his Carter Center was more effective as he used his efforts to support free and fair elections and enabled many countries, including in the Caribbean, to initiate transitions to democratic governance. Through the Carter Center of Emory University, President Carter also worked tirelessly

to help resolve seemingly intractable conflicts. He played a leading role in assisting democratic transition processes in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Guyana.

Throughout the world, President Carter has personified commitment to human rights and social justice. In addition to promoting peace and human rights through the Carter Center, President and Mrs. Carter led the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity for more than 35 years. Together, they worked alongside over 108,100 volunteers who have built, renovated or repaired more than 4,447 homes in 14 countries, all while raising awareness of the critical need for affordable housing. Carter helped build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Léogâne, Haiti, in support of survivors of the 2010 earthquake. As he once said, "Our greatest blessings come when we improve the lives of others."

As the world remembers President Carter, who passed away at 100 on Dec. 29, 2024, his Caribbean legacy stands as a testament to his commitment to diplomacy, human rights, and regional stability during a transformative period in history.



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NEWS



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Local Haitian Americans Honor Independence Amid Ongoing Gang Violence in Haiti

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Haiti gained independence on January 1, 1804, which forever changed the lives for generations of Haitians citizens after freeing themselves from slavery and French rulers during the 19th Century.

And every May, the Caribbean nation and Haitian Americans in South Florida celebrate Haitian Flag Day, a national holiday that commemorates the creation of the banner during the Haitian Revolution in 1803.

But the celebration pales in comparison to the ongoing gang violence that is responsible for thousands of deaths in the capital of Port-au-Prince and other cities, the assassination of Haiti President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, and the revolving door of Haitian leaders in a beleaguered nation. Not to mention that Haiti is still trying to rebound from the 2010 earthquake in which the death toll reached 300,000 and caused billions of dollars in damages.

The United States

government called it the worst natural disaster in history. But despite the tragedies and challenges they continue to face, Haitian Americans cherish Haiti's independence that paved the way for them to come to the U.S. for better lives.

Haitian American community activist Francois Alexandre, who was a City of Miami Commission candidate, said Haiti's independence means liberation. "What does Haiti's independence mean to me?" Alexandre asked. "It means an island that is liberated at a time to be freed and liberated."

Francois Alexandre

Alexandre's life in America took off, becoming a social entrepreneur and international and community leader with a focus on the Black diaspora to



bridge communities to better government. He is founder of Konscious Contractors, KLOTA (Conscious Leaders of Little Haiti) and TAPARI, a non-profit working to empower and transform youth and scholars into future trailblazers and leaders of their community.

Alexandre even took on the police. In 2013, Alexandre was among a group of Miami Heat fans celebrating the team's back-to-back NBA Championships outside his downtown Miami apartment when Miami police officers allegedly roughed him up and broke his eye socket.

The police asked Alexandre and other fans to move to the sidewalk area because they were blocking traffic and he said he complied. But officers threw him hard to the ground. Alexandre filed a lawsuit against the police officers which is still pending. He unsuccessfully ran for Miami City Commissioner in 2021.

Another local Haitian American is basking in Haiti's independence. Kerlie Leonce, a support counselor for Broward

County Public Schools, told the Miami Herald, Haiti's independence had a major impact on her life

"It's what got me here, it's what got my family here," she said. "It gave me the beautiful life that I have now."

Haitian American Schneider Caseus, a U.S. Army Reservist, said Haiti is freed from the system and challenges Haitians faced that left them feeling trapped in a cycle of despair.

"It's being free of everything that has been opposed to the human race and held us down," he said. "It's like growing naturally, like a flower blossoming."

However, Dr. Nadine Pinede, an educator and author who was born in Haiti, said the island nation freeing itself from slavery came at a price. Unlike America, which celebrates Juneteenth to observe in honor of June 19, 1865 when the first slaves were released in Galveston, Texas, Haiti's independence forced the Caribbean nation to pay backbreaking compensation to France in exchange for recognition of their freedom, ostensibly as reparations to plantation owners for their property.

Dr. Nadine Pinede

Pinede said even with this kneecapping, Haiti managed to pay off this unjust and onerous debt but it wasn't enough: The country's national treasury and assets were seized by the United States in a Wall Street-backed occupation that lasted from 1915 to 1934. August of this year will mark 90 years since the end of this now nearly forgotten occupation.

"As a Haitian American, Juneteenth invites me to use an even more panoramic lens. In 1804, 220 years ago, Haiti freed itself from slavery," Pinede wrote in her book, the 'Price of Haiti's Independence.' "But freedom sometimes comes at a high cost. Juneteenth offers a reminder that there is often a backlash when those who would deny the right of freedom for everyone feel threatened, especially when those who had been kept in bondage boldly stake their claim to it."

Ashley Toussaint, founder of Running Edge 305 in Miami, a non-profit that promotes healthier lifestyle through running said that Haiti is not unified with the current chaos.

Ashley Toussaint

"I don't think Haiti has been unified since its inception," he



said. "It's different philosophies on how to run the country and different philosophies and beliefs on who should be in power. There's a lot of violence that's going on in the country right now. Haiti is definitely not unified at this time."

U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus McCormick, the only Haitian American in Congress, said part of the solution to curb gang violence in Haiti is blocking the U.S. to Haiti pipeline of guns, which is spiraling out of control.

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus McCormick

"I think the security issues we are having in Haiti are the guns that are coming out of the United States and entering Haiti," Cherfilus told Voice of American News journalist Peter Clotney. "Once they are in Haiti it goes out to the entire Caribbean. So, we are making sure we are passing legislation to actually stop guns from entering Haiti."

She said economic stability in Haiti hinges on dismantling the gangs and safeguarding Haitians. "It's also imperative that we have a real mission to help protect Haitians from gangs," she said. "The gangs have been dominating certain areas and terrorizing people. So, we have to address that if we are going to have any economic stability in the area."

Despite the gang violence, Fayola NiCaisse, founder of a plant-based cosmetic company and Chair of the Haitian Culture Arts Alliance, said Haiti's independence will always be a part of her life.

Fayola NiCaisse

"It started at a young age and when I came to America, I learned of superficial independence," she said. "Now I look at the world differently."

The ongoing gang violence continues to escalate as more than 100 people, mostly elderly, were killed during the week of December 12th. The people included human rights groups and Voodoo religious leaders, ambushed in the community of Cite-Soleil by a gang leader seeking revenge for his son's death. The U.N. high commissioner of human rights put the death tally at 184 victims. A previous massacre was reported in Petite Rivière with some 20 people killed, including women and children.



Caribbean Heritage Miami Police Officer Sues City Over Demotion, Hairstyle

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Weslyne Lewis Francois, a Caribbean American lieutenant with the Miami Police Department, claims she was harassed by the police chief and demoted from her commander rank over her hairstyle.

Lewis Francois is now suing the city via a federal lawsuit filed in October. She said Miami Police Chief Manuel Morales demoted her because she refused to change her hairstyle - which reflects her Haitian and Bahamian heritage.

Her attorney, Michael Pizzi, told the Caribbean Today, that his client has been sporting the same hairstyle since she joined the police department 18 years ago. After she was promoted to police commander in 2020, she claimed Morales told her she needed to lose her hairstyle because certain communities in the Miami area would not welcome it, according to the lawsuit.

Lewis Francois said she was incessantly harassed by Morales for refusing to change her hairstyle and eventually was demoted to lieutenant in 2022. She defended her hairstyle, telling Morales that it did not interfere with her job and that it violated anti-discrimination laws, according to the lawsuit.

However, she claimed that Morales went on to compare her hairstyle to that of a different Black female police commander, asking why her hair could not be like the other woman's - "short and sleek" hairstyle.

Pizzi said his client is seeking a court order to restore her commander rank, back pay since she was demoted and \$1 million in damages for suffering

public harassment and humiliation at the hands of Morales.

Pizzi said his client's demotion cost her \$30,000 to \$50,000 annually. He also said Morales stripped her of honor guard duties.

"She suffered public humiliation on many occasions because of her hairstyle," Pizzi said. "Chief Morales, who's a Cuban American, made disparaging and racial remarks about her hairstyle and that her appearance is not acceptable in the Coconut Grove district she was serving. Being a proud and distinguished outstanding Black female police officer, she felt insulted that she would be judged by her appearance. She considers that an act of racism."

Pizzi said the Miami Police Department has a history of discrimination and racism and his client's case is the latest example of the mistreatment of Black police officers. "In this day and age, comments about a Black female's hair are turning back the clock 100 years," he said. "To comment on hairstyle of Black female police officer is unacceptable."

Lewis Francois said she reported the issue to City Manager Arthur Noriega but he never acted or met with her to discuss the alleged harassment, according to the lawsuit.

"I've worked really hard, like many others before me, in order to obtain the position of police executive, and unfortunately... that was taken away from me due to the continued abuse of power and authority by [Morales] and



Weslyne Lewis Francois, a Caribbean American lieutenant with the Miami Police Department, is suing the city saying she was harassed by the police chief and demoted from her commander rank over her hairstyle. (Contributed image)

his designee," Lewis Francois told the Miami Herald. "It's become very evident that all staff members are not held to the same standards."

Pizzi said his client's demotion was in retaliation when she stood up to "Morales' racist comments."

"After she objected to the racist comments, they placed her under the supervision of a Major who had been accused by the civilian investigative panel of using the 'N' word," Pizzi said. "Then they humiliated her publicly."

The City of Miami denies Lewis Francois' allegations and said she's merely trying to force payment for a position she no longer holds.

In a statement, the city disputes Francois' claim of harassment. "The city looks forward to challenging her false allegations in court," the statement said.



Celebrating Michael Manley’s Legacy - 100 Years Later

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

The polarizing legacy of former Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley will be the subject of ‘The Word Is Love,’ a lecture on January 10th at 3580 West Oakland Boulevard in Lauderdale Lakes. It also commemorates his 100th birthday – which was December 10th.

The main speaker will be Manley’s former wife, Beverley Manley. ‘The Word Is Love’ is a populist phrase Manley used during his 1971 campaign for prime minister. He led the People’s National Party, (PNP), to a unanimous win over the Jamaica Labour Party, (JLP), in February 1972 and launched a series of social initiatives that benefited Jamaica’s black majority.

Immigration attorney Wayne Golding, whose Orlando-based law firm is a co-sponsor of the lecture, told Caribbean Today that he benefited from

those policies, which included free education, maternity leave with pay for women, passing of the ‘Bastard Act,’ and establishment of the National Housing Trust, which gave the working-class opportunities to own homes.

“The Most Honorable Michael Manley was one of the greatest leaders and agents of change, not only in Jamaica, but the entire world and his legacy and impact should always be heralded, revered, celebrated and most importantly, never forgotten,” Golding said. “The Jamaican Diaspora has a responsibility to embrace, preserve and share the history of their home country and its leaders who help to create a place of pride for us on the world stage.”

Golding did not disclose the focus of Mrs. Manley’s address, but said the event will recall her former husband’s roles as trade unionist, statesman and unyielding support of embattled countries like Cuba, as well as



Former Jamaica Prime Minister, Michael Manley’s 100th birthday will be marked on Jan. 10th with a lecture at 3580 West Oakland Boulevard in Lauderdale Lakes by Beverley Manley. (Getty image)

colonial Africa. Manley’s friendship with Cuban president Fidel Castro sparked fear of Communism among Jamaica’s middle-class, many of whom fled to South Florida and Canada. The Manley-Castro bond was also scrutinized by the administrations of presidents

Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. Manley served as prime minister from 1972 to 1980. He was re-elected to office in 1989 but resigned three years later due to failing health. He died at age 72 in March 1997 from prostate cancer. Golding believes history has absolved him.

“It has proved that Mr. Manley was a patriotic, selfless visionary, and this is now even accepted by those who had disagreed with him,” he said. “Through Mr. Manley’s journey and world vision, today Jamaica has a thunderous and respected voice in world politics and affairs. We should continue to stand on his shoulders with appreciation and pride while also learning from any of his perceived mistakes.”

In December, the PNP staged an 11-day exhibition marking Manley’s centenary at its headquarters in Kingston. Barbados prime minister, Mia Mottley, gave a speech on Manley’s impact in the Jamaican capital on December 11, 2024.

Hammond & Associates Inc, the Law Offices of Denzle G. Latty, attorney-at-law Junior W. Farquharson, and the Law Offices of Dahlia A. Walker, are also sponsors of ‘The Word Is Love.’



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8 Key Facts About Trump's First Caribbean Ambassador Nominee

Donald Trump has nominated Leah Campos Schandlbauer, a former CIA operations officer and seasoned foreign affairs expert, as the U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. If confirmed, Campos will be Trump's first ambassadorial pick for the Caribbean region, bringing extensive national security and policy experience to the role. Here's what you should know about Campos:

Distinguished CIA Career: Campos Schandlbauer is a former CIA operations officer with over 10 years of experience.

Foreign Affairs Expertise: Campos previously served as a senior advisor for the Western Hemisphere on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, focusing on Latin America.

Educational Background: She holds degrees from the University of Pittsburgh (1997) and Arizona State University, reflecting her strong academic foundation.

Congressional Candidate: In 2012, she ran for Congress as a Republican in Arizona's 9th Congressional District, emphasizing border security in her campaign. During her congressional run, she like Trump, made the border a central theme, stating in 2012: "The federal government needs to do its job and secure



New DR ambassador nominee Leah Francis Campos.

our border with Mexico, just as Mexico robustly secures its own southern border. Mexico is undergoing a bitter, violent and widespread assault at the

hands of vicious drug cartels, which threatens to completely destabilize the Mexican nation. Anyone who asserts that this has not had a huge impact on Arizona is simply not telling the truth. "

Family Connections: Campos' sister, Rachel Campos-Duffy, is a Fox News contributor, and her brother-in-law, Sean Duffy, was named Secretary of Transportation by Trump. "Her sister, the outstanding Rachel Campos-Duffy, of FoxNews, and brother-in-law Sean Duffy, who will be Secretary of Transportation, are also wonderful Patriots. Leah will take her love of Country, and commitment to our National Security and Prosperity, to her post as U.S. Ambassador to the

Dominican Republic," Trump said in a post to Truth Social.

Private Sector Role: Since 2019, she has worked as Senior Strategic Adviser for SAS Institute, focusing on Latin America, Southern Europe, and other regions.

Devout Faith: A lifelong Catholic, she credits her mother, a catechist, with shaping her strong religious values.

Personal Life: She resides in Arizona with her husband, Alfred Schandlbauer, and their four children: Christian, Isabela, Soledad, and Xavier.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



St. Lucia Citizenship By Investment Board Welcomes Dismissal Of US Lawsuit

The St. Lucia Citizenship by Investment Board, (CIB) has expressed satisfaction with the voluntary dismissal of a lawsuit filed in the United States, labeling the case as baseless and a failed attempt to tarnish the reputation of the island's Citizenship by Investment Programme, (CBI).

In a statement, the CIB said the lawsuit, filed in U.S. Federal Court by St. Kitts-Nevis developer Philippe Martinez, was without merit from the start and aimed to discredit the leadership of the program and its network of partners, including banks, authorized agents, and promoters.

"This lawsuit had no merit from the outset," the CIB declared. "It was a frivolous attempt to undermine the

credibility of the Citizenship by Investment Programme and its management. The withdrawal of the lawsuit further underscores the lack of credibility surrounding his claims."

The lawsuit accused Mc Claude Emmanuel, the CEO of St. Lucia's Citizenship by Investment Unit, (CIU), of misconduct, though the CIB noted that Martinez has "no business ties to St. Lucia." The board also confirmed that last-minute attempts for a financial settlement by the plaintiffs were firmly rejected.

CIP's Regional Importance and Global Standards

Under the CBI program, St. Lucia offers citizenship to foreign investors in exchange

for substantial contributions to the island's socio-economic development. Similar programs operate in Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda.

The CIB emphasized its commitment to transparency, bolstered by partnerships with international stakeholders such as the European Union, U.S. State Department, and other regulatory authorities. The program has been praised for its rigorous due diligence processes and adherence to good governance standards.

Reactions To The Dismissal

St. Lucia's Tourism and Investment Minister, Dr. Ernest Hilaire, a person of interest in the lawsuit, said the withdrawal was

unsurprising.

"I am really not surprised that Martinez took the course of action to withdraw his claims, which were all fabricated, baseless, and malicious," Hilaire said.

Martinez, through his attorneys, filed a federal notice of voluntary dismissal last week, stating that the action was being withdrawn without prejudice, meaning it can be refiled in the future. The notice also confirmed that none of the defendants had filed a response or motion for summary judgment before the withdrawal.

Continued Focus on Excellence

The CIB underscored its determination to maintain the integrity of the program and

its role as a leader in the global citizenship-by-investment industry.

"The St. Lucia Citizenship by Investment Board takes the business of the State very seriously and ensures the operations of the Unit and, by extension, the program, remain above board and within regulatory requirements," the statement concluded.

This development comes as St. Lucia continues to solidify its position as a premier destination for investment through citizenship, supported by collaboration with other regional CBI programs and international regulatory frameworks.

- Rewritten from CMC



Caribbean-American Congresswoman Urges Biden Administration To Protect Black Immigrant Communities

Caribbean-American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has joined lawmakers and immigration advocates in urging the Joe Biden administration to implement measures to protect Black immigrant communities during the current lame-duck session.

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants who represents Brooklyn's predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District, called for urgent action alongside fellow legislators and advocacy groups.

The event followed a letter Clarke and her colleagues sent to President Biden, urging him to adopt executive actions that safeguard Black immigrants.

Executive Actions Proposed

The lawmakers' recommendations include:

- Extending and redesignating Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for eligible countries.
- Clearing TPS application backlogs and finalizing auto-extensions for work permits.

- Prioritizing work permit processing across all categories.
- Granting Special Student Relief (SSR) to Nigerian F-1 students in the U.S.
- Citing the harmful immigration policies enacted during Donald Trump's previous term, Clarke and her colleagues expressed concern about the president-elect's campaign promises to ramp up deportations and militarize immigration enforcement.

"With his pledge to conduct the largest mass deportation in history and enlist the military to carry out this plan, we are extremely concerned that people of African descent will be disproportionately targeted," the letter stated.

Advocacy and Support

Immigration advocates present at the press conference included leaders from organizations like African Communities Together (ACT), Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), the Nigerian

Center, and the Haitian Bridge Alliance, (HBA).

Nils Kinuani, federal policy manager for ACT, emphasized the dangers facing Black immigrants.

"The scapegoating of immigrants has placed Black immigrants at a dangerous crossroads, where they face both harmful rhetoric and invisibility," Kinuani said.

Gbenga Ogunjimi, executive director of the Nigerian Center, called for swift action to extend TPS or SSR protections to Nigerian nationals and students. "We urge the Biden administration to prioritize these measures as it transitions its term," Ogunjimi said.

Economic and Social Implications

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, the first Black woman to represent Florida's 20th District, highlighted the contributions of TPS holders, who pay over \$4 billion in taxes annually.

"Failing to renew TPS would create massive socio-economic

disruptions and tear families apart," she said. "The solution is clear: TPS must be extended."

Condemnation of Deportation Plans

Meanwhile, the Haitian Bridge Alliance denounced reports of Trump's proposed mass deportation plans, describing them as an assault on human rights. Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Alliance, applauded the ACLU for filing a lawsuit to demand transparency from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) about the proposal.

"These actions threaten the safety of individuals seeking asylum and undermine the rule of law," Jozef said.

With about three dozen congressional representatives backing Clarke's efforts, advocates are hopeful that President Biden will act decisively to protect Black immigrant communities before the transition of power.

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Miami Dade County Names Street After Bahamas Roots Trailblazer, Educator And Preservationist

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Bahamas-roots Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney boldly stood in front of a bulldozer to save the historic landmark Hampton House in Miami from being demolished to make way for new residential buildings in the Brownsville community.

Pinkney, who was the first Black president of the Miami-Dade Historic and Preservation Board, spearheaded efforts to safeguard the former hotel site where Black celebrities like Muhammad Ali, Sammy Davis Jr., Malcolm X and Miles Davis stayed while they were in town.

Segregation during the 1950s and 1960s banned them from staying in hotels in Miami Beach and Miami, where they had performed, and the Hampton House was their only choice for hospitality.

Pinkney, who was kindhearted but tenacious, when it came to preservation for the Hampton House, requested county dollars to preserve the Hampton House and wouldn't take no for an answer.

Today, the Hampton House has been transformed into a Black and cultural arts museum and a social gathering place for concerts, banquets and birthday celebrations for Black women who reached the age of 90-100 years old.

And when county, city and community leaders wanted to name a street in honor of the trailblazer, educator, historian and preservationist it only seemed fitting to place it adjacent to the building she was willing to give up her life for. Pinkney died on July 18 at the age of 92.

Last month, the family of Pinkney and community and local dignitaries gathered to pay tribute to the daughter of Bahamian immigrants, during a street naming ceremony at the Hampton House. Now motorists and pedestrians can see the Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney Street at the southwest corner of N.W. 42nd Street between 27th and 29th Avenues in Miami.

The ceremony inside the Hampton House included a Junkanoo parade with Pinkney's family, Miami City Commissioner Chair Christine King and former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan as part of the procession - reflecting Pinkney's Bahamian roots. Junkanoo is a Bahamian celebration between Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Keon Hardemon, who sponsored legislation to rename the street after Pinkney, called her an inspiration who raised the bar for fighting for equality and preserving one's



Left To Right: Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan, Dr. Enid Pinkney's nephew Gary Allen, Miami City Commission Chairwoman Christine King, Misty Brown from the office of County Commissioner Keon Hardemon, County Commissioner Keon Hardemon and Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava.

heritage.

"Dr. Enid Pinkney championed the preservation of many important landmarks that defined the rich history of Black Miami," said Hardemon. "This tribute ensures that her legacy is celebrated and the rich history she championed continues to inspire future generations in Miami-Dade County."

Master of Ceremony Ruban Roberts, who has known Pinkney for years, said the community needs to find a way to memorialize people whose contributions impact lives.

"What better way to do that than naming a street after them," he said. "Today is a celebration for all that Dr. Pinkney has done."

Pinkney's nephew, Gary Allen, said she knew about the street naming before she died. "I think she was happy but it was hard to read her sometimes," he said. "I wasn't sure how she really felt about it."

Allen said the sign reflects his aunt's fighting spirit and respect to one's heritage and culture.

Miami City Commission Chairwoman Christine King said she will be forever grateful for the kindness Pinkney showed her. "She gave me wisdom and she gave me advice," said King, who collaborated with Hardemon for the street naming. "She was so passionate about many things. She took time to talk to me and guide me to make sure I'm on the right path."

Jordan said she appointed Pinkney to the Miami-Dade Historic Preservation Board after she requested it despite Pinkney not living in her district.

"As county commissioners, we make appointments that come from our own districts," Jordan said. "She asked me to appoint her even though she didn't live in my district. And it was an honor and boy she made some waves."

Jordan said Pinkney pushed for funding for the Hampton House to preserve it and renovate the facility. She said Pinkney wouldn't stand for the county's lack of funds excuse

and got on the case of then-Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas.

He agreed and county commissioners agreed to fund the Hampton House. "Dr. Pinkney got on the case and what a response," Jordan said. "I truly appreciate the kind of dedication this lady had. She was so powerful."

Pinkney was a first-generation Miamian as her family was from the Bahamas and grew in Overtown.

She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and went on to Talladega College, where she got a master's degree from Barry University and an honorary doctorate from Florida International University.

Pinkney worked as a social worker from 1953 to 1955, after which she worked in the Dade County Public School System until she retired as assistant principal at South Miami Middle School in 1991. She was the first Black to serve on the Dade Heritage Trust and later became the group's president.

Pinkney fought to preserve Bahamian history in its cultural backbone of Coconut Grove by leading an effort to build the Frederica Roberts Bahamian Museum of Arts. The museum, which is located in the Black West Grove, also known as Little Bahamas, is dedicated to celebrating the Bahamian presence and contributions in South Florida including being the first settlers in Miami before the city incorporated in 1896.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, who knew Pinkney years before she

entered politics, said she was a role model. But people didn't take her kindness for a sign of weakness as she fiercely stood up for what she believed in.

"She was sweet with a smile but she was also tough," Miami-Dade Mayor Levine Cava said. "She was a role model for all of us."

Levine Cava said Pinkney underscored the importance of Black history in Miami-Dade, and used the Hampton House and Overtown as the cornerstones for African-American achievements.

"Thanks to Dr. Pinkney, we have Black history right here in Miami-Dade County," she said. "We have rich history like Overtown, the Lyric Theatre, the Hampton House, and Miami Gardens, which is the largest Black city in Florida. "We have a lot of things to celebrate Black History and she was instrumental for that. So, let's continue her legacy and make her proud."



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Lone Caribbean Scientist Gets OAS Honor

A Caribbean-born scientist was recently honored among the Hemisphere's brightest minds by the Organization of American States, (OAS). Dr. Cardinal Warde of Barbados was the lone Caribbean scientist among seven distinguished individuals from the Americas, awarded the prestigious Science, Technology, and Innovation Award of the Americas during the VII Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Science and Technology, (REMYCT).

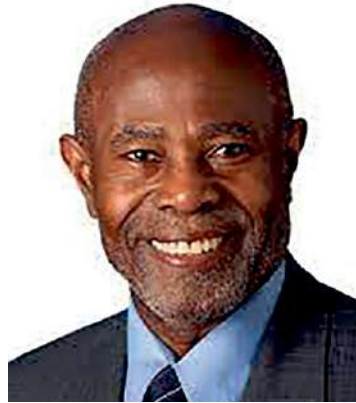
The ceremony celebrated trailblazers from Barbados, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay, and the United States for their exceptional contributions to science and technology, as well as their commitment to fostering cooperation and development across OAS member states.

A Champion for Caribbean Science

Dr. Warde, 79, a Professor

of Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was recognized for his groundbreaking work in optoelectronics and his leadership in advancing science education in the Caribbean. As President of the Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology, and Innovation (CADSTI) and Interim Executive Director of the Caribbean Science Foundation, Dr. Warde has dedicated his career to equipping the next generation of scientists and engineers with tools for success.

Born in Christ Church, Barbados, Warde showed an early passion for science, converting his father's carpentry shop into a makeshift chemistry lab. After excelling at Harrison College, he pursued higher education in the United States, earning his doctorate in physics from Yale University in 1974.



Barbados-born US scientist and MIT Professor Cardinal Warde.

Pioneering Research and Innovations

At MIT, where he has served since 1974, Dr. Warde is a leading expert in materials and systems for optical information processing and displays. His research spans diverse fields, including optical computing, wireless communication, and holography. He has developed innovative optical neural

network processors and light modulators that have advanced brain-like computing and high-resolution imaging technologies. Beyond academia, Dr. Warde founded multiple successful technology ventures, including Optron Systems and Radiant Images, Inc., specializing in optoelectronic systems and displays. His inventions have earned him 12 patents, underscoring his impact on the tech industry.

Advocacy For Education And Development

Dr. Warde is equally celebrated for his contributions to education policy in the Caribbean. He has worked tirelessly as a scientific advisor to the Government of Barbados and other regional entities to enhance STEM opportunities for Caribbean youth.

Through the Caribbean Science Foundation, Dr. Warde oversees the Student Program for Innovation in Science and

Engineering (SPISE), a rigorous summer initiative that prepares gifted students for careers in science and engineering. He also established the Rosetta Irene Ward Memorial Scholarship Fund, supporting higher education for students from English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Global Recognition

Dr. Warde's accolades include the Barbados Prime Minister's Award for Excellence and the Caribbean American Heritage Award. He is also a Fellow of The Optical Society and holds honorary doctorates from the University of the West Indies and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

As a scientist, educator, and advocate, Dr. Warde exemplifies the power of innovation and collaboration. His recognition by the OAS highlights the vital contributions of Caribbean professionals to global science and technology.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



Book Review - Affirming 'Caribbeanness' Through Reggae

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Like many societies across the world, when we migrate to places far afield, we take our cultural practices, habits, and traditions with us. Nowhere is it more evident than Brooklyn, New York, a mix of Caribbean cultures bound together by common ancestry and a desire to preserve their unique identity.

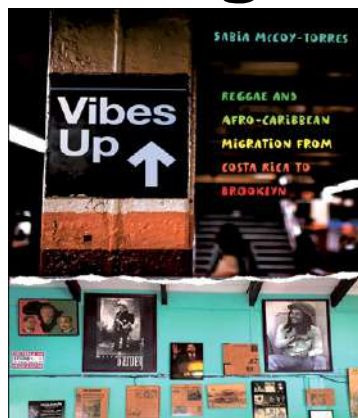
There is no mistake you are in "Brooklyn, West Indies" as you walk through the streets of East Flatbush, Brooklyn. The syncopated rhythm and bass of reggae music will greet you; the smells of jerk chicken wafting from smoking roadside vendors' recycled drum and the sing-song cadences of island language make it clear.

SHARED HISTORY

Using reggae culture as a window to view Caribbean identity, migration, Diaspora, and what it means to be Caribbean in a new adopted homeland, Sabia McCoy-Torres, in her seminal book 'Vibes Up: Reggae and Afro-Caribbean Migration from Costa Rica to Brooklyn,' shares how the power of reggae music becomes a tool for Black Caribbean power fighting against 'Babylon,' yet creating space for community.

The author underscores the history of slavery, white dominance, and anti-blackness throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Costa Rica, and Latin America, that perpetuated racial inequality and a black-white binary. It is this shared history that has helped shape Afro-Caribbean identity and connection, she explains.

The voices in this anthropological study are not just Jamaicans supplanted in Brooklyn. They are from all over



the Caribbean. They are Black Caribbean-Costa Ricans, (Ticos Caribeños) - Jamaicans and their descendants living in Costa Rica; they are and first- and second-generation Jamaican-Costa Ricans who live in the Central American country or in Brooklyn.

Harvey: "I just can't leave Brooklyn. Brooklyn is the flesh and blood." He was speaking from the perspective of a Trinidadian person entrenched in the West Indian community there.

Miss Veronica Brown has lived most of her life in Puerto Viejo but was born in Siquirres, Limón, during a time when it was "Black, Black, Black, only Black people then," she said, switching from Spanish into Patwa. Her maternal and paternal grandparents emigrated from Jamaica to Costa Rica and brought their children (her parents), who were young children at the time. Miss Veronica is a first-generation Costa Rican.

Red Fox recalls his teenage transition from Jamaica's rural countryside to Brooklyn's concrete jungle as being a challenging one. Red Fox is a reggae artist now in his forties who is best known for his dancehall anthem "Pose Off."

Many decades after leaving, Nurse D still misses

Jamaica every day. Reggae helps her cope. During difficult moments of missing home, she says, "I quickly get into a likkle music, reggae music. It soothes my soul; just gives me a spiritual connection, a personal connection."

How Costa Ricans and Jamaicans are connected through immigration, and importantly how these immigrants from both countries carve out communities in their newly adopted Brooklyn home through shared Caribbean culture is extensively explored. An understudied theme, McCoy-Torres deftly sheds light on this little-known triangulated migration and resulting bond.

Jamaicans first migrated to Costa Rica back in the late nineteenth century to work on building the Atlantic Railroad and later worked for the United Fruit Company in banana cultivation. Most came for economic reasons, and many settled in the southeastern town of Puerto Viejo located in Limón province where today their descendants form the main inhabitants.

THE VIBES

McCoy-Torres, an Afro-Caribbean of Puerto Rican descent, felt the 'vibes' growing up in the Bronx, New York, another New York borough with a large Caribbean population. She heard the familiar cadence of Jamaicans in her neighborhoods. She rocked to the reggae music blaring from large speakers at events in the park nearby, and she loved it! This connection peaked her interest that would years later lead to this study.

So, what is 'TheVibes'? The sensory, and often sensuous experiences Caribbean folk feel moving to reggae music, celebrating cultural heritage, and creating a community

of Caribbeanness. It's about the "sound, movement, and collectivity... It can soothe nostalgia for home, connect distant places, make people feel the Caribbean, and offer a meditative apparatus through which knowledge can safely and enjoyably be pursued," notes the author.

These vibes touch all members of the Caribbean Diaspora, no matter where they are, even those traditionally left out of it. McCoy-Torres investigates how those in queer spaces, once on the fringe of Caribbean communities, are now embraced as part of the collective.

Using singer Koffee's music videos, Toast" and "Rapture," as examples, the author demonstrates that reggae is a tool to interpret social positions as the singer's gender roles are flipped or ambiguous. This tells us that homosexuality and gender fluid individuals have become more visible as a reflection of a wider society.

A well-researched and comprehensive study about the connectedness of West Indian people through a reggae lens, McCoy-Torres makes it clear that reggae music is indeed the common thread that binds diverse yet connected cultures together into one 'Caribbeanness.' It is the thread that helps us carve out place for identity and a sense of belonging in foreign spaces we now call home.

TITLE: Vibes Up: Reggae and Afro-Caribbean Migration from Costa Rica to Brooklyn

AUTHOR: Sabia McCoy-Torres

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How About Collective Pardon For The Most Vulnerable Immigrants President Biden?

In 2021, over 187 organizations - including the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch - wrote to the Biden administration urging President Joe Biden to exercise his pardon power to address immigration consequences. Their call was two-fold: first, to pardon immigrants with deportable convictions to spare them from removal, and second, to ensure that clemency recipients also receive protection from immigration detention or deportation.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Now, as President Biden nears the end of his presidency and has exercised his pardon power to include his son and 1,500 others, it is the perfect moment to revisit this plea. Biden should extend this power to collectively pardon non-criminal undocumented immigrants, DREAMers, and those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) - individuals who have spent years contributing to this country, paying taxes, and building lives, but who now face the threat of being deported under a Donald Trump administration.

In a historical parallel, former President Jimmy Carter's first official act was to grant a blanket pardon to individuals who evaded the Vietnam War draft, framing it as a step toward healing the nation's wounds. While controversial, Carter's action was a bold assertion of presidential mercy. It is now time for Biden to channel Carter's

boldness and offer a similar pardon to millions of immigrants at risk before January 19th.

Boston immigration attorney Matt Cameron noted that the U.S. Constitution allows the president to pardon "Offenses against the United States," which could encompass civil violations of the Immigration and Nationality Act. On his podcast, Opening Arguments, Cameron asserted, "It has never been used that way, but I agree that it should be." He also highlighted that a mass pardon could provide immigrants with a clear pathway to citizenship.

"There's also a major side benefit to this blanket pardon," Cameron explained. "Penalties for periods of unlawful presence would not be applied, which would immediately help every undocumented person married to a U.S. citizen. This could bypass the need for the grueling 10-year wait outside the U.S. or the uncertain hardship waiver process."

Legal scholars Peter L. Markowitz and Lindsey Nash echoed this sentiment in the NYU Law Review years earlier, in 2018. They wrote, "While direct categorical application of the pardon power to civil immigration offenses has no immediate precedent in history, it accords with the very purpose for which Presidents have, for centuries, issued categorical pardons: to use their inherent power of mercy and duty to promote the national interest to alleviate the toll of harsh laws on politically unpopular groups."

The scholars further argued that the pardon power was enshrined by the Framers of the Constitution as a necessary check against overly harsh laws enacted

by Congress. "The pardon power serves as an essential backstop to avert unduly harsh negative consequences of legislative enactments," they wrote.

As harsh immigration laws continue to devastate families and traditional policy mechanisms remain stalled, President Biden has a rare opportunity to act. By granting a collective pardon, he could

protect millions from the looming threat of deportation under a Trump administration and cement his legacy as a champion of justice and compassion.

It is time for Joe Biden to wield his power in these waning days to save immigrants from the Grinch threatening to steal their futures, while solidifying his place in history with a lasting act of mercy.

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



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Freedom For Who?

Take away someone's freedom and you basically take away their life. That's why prisons are so effective in their punishment, as they are designed to strip away the freedom of those who are sent there.

Even a short sentence can be daunting, so you can just imagine a very long one. It was American politician Patrick Henry, centuries ago, who shouted: "Give me liberty or give me death."

And yet, so many people take it for granted, until they enter into a relationship, and only then do they realize the true value and importance of freedom. Interestingly, some may actually enjoy this new feeling



TONY ROBINSON

and don't even consider it as a loss of freedom, while others think otherwise and bask in it, treating their shackle as if it's jewelry.

Freedom means different things to different people, and freedom means something different depending on what gender you ask. Men viewed freedom or the loss of it, differently from women.

When a man gets into a relationship and eventually gets married, he often considers it as a loss of freedom. In fact, the bachelor-night party on the eve of the wedding is considered the man's last night of freedom. "At what point did you lose your freedom?" "When I said the words 'I Do.'"

Some historians say that it is written in the annals of history that a man's freedom is erased from his life with marriage and that's why phrases like, 'Tie the knot,' 'Wedlock,' 'Settle down'

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Crime Directly Costs The Caribbean And Latin America More Than Three Percent Of GDP

BY ILAN GOLDFAJN AND
RODRIGO VALDÉS

Violent crime and insecurity have a disproportionate impact on the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), region with severe consequences for socioeconomic development.

Despite representing just eight per cent of the world's population, the region accounts for nearly one-third of global homicides. This as well as other alarming statistics highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address the far-reaching effects of crime and violence.

New research by the Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) highlights how crime, insecurity and low growth reinforce each other in a vicious cycle that stifles investment, reduces tourism, and accelerates emigration.

Macroeconomic instability – recessions, inflation spikes, and rising inequality – is associated with increased violence. Easily available firearms and organized crime amplify these effects, undermining institutions and the rule of law.

Quantifying the Costs of Crime

A recent IDB paper quantifies the direct losses, estimating that crime and violence cost the region 3.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, (GDP) annually. These costs stem from productivity losses due to lives lost, injuries, and imprisonment; private-sector expenditures on security; and public spending on police, justice, and prisons. This is equivalent to 80 percent of the region's public education budgets and double its social assistance spending. But the impact of crime doesn't end there. It discourages investment, reduces tourism, and drives emigration, further weakening economic resilience and constraining the region's future growth.

IMF research reveals that crime hampers innovation and reduces firm productivity, compounding economic stagnation over time. Leveraging geo-localized data on nightlights, the study finds that halving homicide rates in violent municipalities could increase their economic output by up to 30 per cent.

At the regional level, as shown in 2023's IMF research, reducing homicide rates to the global average could boost Latin America and the Caribbean's annual GDP growth by 0.5 percentage points.

Conversely, macroeconomic instability often fuels spikes in violence: a recession in LAC

is associated with a 6 percent increase in homicides the following year, while inflation spikes above 10 percent are linked to a 10 percent rise in homicides the year after. Growing inequality further exacerbates the link between economic stagnation and crime.

How Can Policymakers Help Break The Cycle?

Breaking this vicious circle requires a deeper understanding of its root causes and impacts. Rigorous research and better data are essential for designing public policies that effectively reduce crime.

Institutions like the IDB and IMF can generate evidence, monitor crime dynamics, advise member countries, and facilitate discussions. As the topic has become macro critical in the region, the institutions brought together experts and policymakers in a joint conference late last year. First, sound economic policy plays a preventive role. Stability, low inflation, robust social safety nets, and opportunities that reduce inequality and expand access to education and employment are critical to breaking the cycle of violence and stagnation.

Financial authorities are also uniquely positioned to weaken criminal networks by addressing illicit markets, curtailing financial flows, and tackling money laundering – cutting off resources that sustain organized crime.

Second, because the impact of crime extends far beyond direct economic costs, economic policymakers must adopt a broader role by targeting high-risk groups, improving crime monitoring, and enhancing interagency coordination.

Effective interventions can deliver transformative results. With IMF support, Jamaica implemented reforms that protected public investment and social spending while successfully halving debt between 2012 and 2022. Community-based interventions supported by the IDB reduced gang violence in 68 per cent of affected neighbourhoods.

In Rosario province, Argentina implemented a comprehensive strategy to combat crime, including territorial control of high-risk neighbourhoods by the Federal Police, stricter prison systems for high-profile offenders, and collective prosecution of criminal groups under new legislation like the anti-mafia law.

These efforts, alongside progress on a juvenile penal code to deter drug traffickers from recruiting minors, have

led to 65 per cent reduction in homicides in 11 months. In Honduras, strategic security reforms contributed to a 14 per cent decline in the homicide rate and an eight per cent increase in public confidence in law enforcement.

Policymakers must prioritize using resources effectively, given the scope of the challenge. Public spending on security in the region is already high – around 1.9 per cent of GDP, or 7.4 per cent of total public expenditure – and may be even greater where the military and subnational governments are involved.

Finance ministers and fiscal authorities need a full understanding of these costs, covering police, courts, prisons, and related institutions, to ensure funds are allocated efficiently to areas with the highest impact. They also need to monitor them in the same way they surveil other large spending tickets, evaluating their impact and

pressing for results.

Transnational Crime Demands Regional Cooperation

Tackling crime solely at the national level isn't sufficient. Criminal groups operate across borders, making isolated responses ineffective and fragmented. To address this shared challenge, countries must collaborate more closely to develop stronger, more coordinated solutions. Recognizing the transnational nature of crime, the IDB's Alliance for Security, Justice, and Development seeks to unite governments, civil society, and private-sector actors. This alliance not only aims to strengthen institutions and enhance cooperation but also supports public policies and mobilizes resources to implement evidence-based solutions that effectively combat organized crime and violence. Regional collaboration

is crucial for disrupting the sophisticated, interconnected networks of organized crime that undermine the rule of law and economic stability. By fostering unified efforts, institutions like the IMF and IDB alongside governments and civil society, have a critical role to play in this effort.

With people's lives on the line, the true impact of these efforts must be felt on the ground – by creating safer streets, restoring hope in communities, and offering individuals a real chance to thrive economically in a future free from violence.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ilan Goldfajn is the president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Rodrigo Valdés, is director of the Western Hemisphere Department of the IMF.

- CMC



Freedom For Who?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

and 'Get hitched,' are attributed to marriage.

No wonder so many grooms are nervous at the altar, even as the bride is smiling and is as cool as a cucumber. She knows that the little ring that she places on his finger will have the same effect as the ring that's inserted into a bull's nose to control him and lead him in any direction that she wants him to go. There is a loss of freedom when you tie the knot.

"Every time I leave the house, I have to tell my wife where I'm going." "Ha, tell her where you're going? I have to tell mine who I'm going to see and what time I'm coming back home."

The irony is, even though some men whined about this so-called loss of freedom, deep down they like it when someone cares enough to want to know what they're doing.

"Yeah man, I got tired of the bachelor life when I roamed the streets and answered to no one." So, loss of freedom isn't necessarily a bad thing.

But women view freedom or loss of freedom differently. Many express that this loss of freedom that men said marriage brings, actually had the opposite effect on them.

They said that they now had the freedom to relax and be themselves. No longer do they have to put on a false outward face, a cloak of deception; now they have the freedom to be themselves. They can now be who they want to be.

"Before I got married, I had to make sure that he saw me only at my best, but now I have



the freedom to relax." There she is, draped in her housecoat, bunny-rabbit bedroom slippers, head full of curlers, scarf and all, awash with liniment, bay rum and face cream.

The men see it as a loss of the ability to do what they used to do, while the women viewed it as a freedom to do what they couldn't do before. The irony is, even though many men see marriage as a loss of freedom, they still embrace it and even enjoy it.

Many take pride in saying: "My wife tells me how to dress for certain occasions," or "Let me run that by my wife first and

get back to you." It's a loss of freedom that many men actually embrace.

That loss of freedom gives them a sense of well-being and belonging. Yes, loss of freedom isn't necessarily a bad thing. I wish for you all a wonderful free New Year.

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.



Vybz Kartel To Release Deluxe Album Following Freedom Street Concert

Fresh off the success of his historic Freedom Street Concert in Kingston, dancehall icon Vybz Kartel is wasting no time in setting the tone for the new year. The “Worl’ Boss” has announced plans to release a deluxe 10th-anniversary edition of his groundbreaking album *Viking* (Vybz Is King) in 2025, further solidifying his legacy as one of Jamaica’s most influential artists.

Vybz Kartel, born Adidja Azim Palmer, has spent over two decades shaping the global dancehall scene with razor-sharp lyrics and chart-topping hits like “Rompin’ Shop,” “Fever,” and “Clarks.” Even during his 13 years behind bars, Kartel remained a dominant force in music, inspiring stars like Spice, Popcaan, and Shenseea while earning praise from global icons including Cardi B, Rihanna, Drake, and JAY-Z.

Released from prison in July 2024 after his conviction was overturned, Kartel has



Vybz Kartel with dancers at the opening of his performance. (Photo: Tizzy Tokyo)

experienced a meteoric resurgence. Within months, he earned his first GRAMMY nomination for Best Reggae Album for his EP *Party With Me*, launched his STR8 VYBZ rum brand, and staged his long-awaited return to the stage with the Freedom Street Concert on

New Year’s Eve.
Held at Kingston’s Independence Park (National

Stadium), the concert was a momentous occasion for Kartel and his multi-generational fanbase, many of whom traveled from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and beyond to witness his return. Supported by Downsound Entertainment, producers of Sumfest, and STR8 VYBZ, the event featured a 360-degree stage, dazzling fireworks, and performances from a star-studded lineup, including Lisa Hyper, Gaza Indu, Spice, Popcaan, Jah Vinci, and Shawn Storm. Hip-hop legend Busta Rhymes and dancehall pioneers Bounty Killer and Skeng also joined Kartel on stage, adding to the electrifying energy.

As the clock struck

midnight, Kartel delivered a powerful rendition of Jamaica’s national anthem, signaling a new chapter for his life and career. His sons, Likkle Addi and Likkle Vybz, celebrated their father’s return with their own performances, while fans roared in approval.

With a deluxe album on the horizon and his indomitable spirit as strong as ever, Vybz Kartel’s return underscores his enduring legacy as the King of Dancehall and a symbol of resilience for Jamaica and its global diaspora.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Dancehall Legend Lieutenant Stitchie Slowly Recovering

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Long before he converted to Christianity, Lieutenant Stitchie earned his stripes as one of dancehall music’s good guys. Humorous songs like *Wear Yuh Size* and *Natty Dread* endeared him to mainstream fans wary of outrageous acts like *Ninja Man* and *Shabba Ranks*.

In September, Stitchie suffered a brain haemorrhage which required extensive medical care. His family set up a GoFundMe page shortly after his ordeal was made public, seeking \$100,000. At time of writing, it has raised just \$24,000.

Most of that has come from his colleagues in the entertainment industry. In October, deejay Bounty Killer’s Bounty Foundation presented Stitchie’s family with a cheque for \$10,000 to assist in the 59-year-old artist’s recovery.

Two months later, singer Richie Stephens presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the family. Those funds were raised from a show Stephens staged in Chicago on November 29.

Stephens stressed the importance of artists supporting colleagues who have fallen on hard times. He noted that Stitchie has been his close friend for 40 years.

“I met Stitchie years ago when I went to live with my father in Spanish Town. I also met Papa San, Captain Barkey and Wickerman, Dirtsman, who is Papa San’s brother, and Anthony Redrose. Stitchie was one of dem artistes who gave me a lot of encouragement; is a good bredrin, I know him him as



Lieutenant Stitchie is recovering slowly from surgery. (GoFundMe image)

a good person and now that he is in this position, I think it’s only right for people like myself to step up and do what I can to help him,” Stephens said.

Lieutenant Stitchie, whose real name is Cleve Laing, was a high school teacher while making his name as a deejay on sound systems in his native Spanish Town, Jamaica’s first capital. In 1986, he hit the charts for the first time with *Wear Yuh Size*, which was followed by other radio-friendly hits such as *Natty Dread* and *Big Broad Hips*.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Stitchie recorded three well-received albums for Atlantic Records. But with his career on a high, he left secular music in the late 1990s to become a Christian. His wife, Sophia Laing, spoke to the Jamaica Observer newspaper recently about her husband’s condition.

“The surgery was done and now he’s recovering, his eyes are open and when he hears familiar voices, he will use his eyes to follow the sound,” she said.



Soca superstar Machel Montano and cricket legend-turned-artist Dwayne “DJ Bravo” are setting the stage for Carnival 2025 with their latest musical collaboration, the “Pineapple Riddim.” The vibrant project, launched on December 18, 2024 at the Queen’s Park Oval in Port of Spain, features an impressive lineup of talent, including Montano, Patrice Roberts, Lyrikal, Barbadian soca icon Rupee, and emerging artist 47 Ronzy.

The riddim is a joint venture between Montano’s Monk Music and Bravo’s 47 Productions, signaling a strong commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation in soca music.

Promoting Culture and Collaboration

Speaking at the launch event alongside Bravo, Lyrikal, Rupee, and 47 Ronzy, Montano emphasized the importance of investing in Trinidad and Tobago’s cultural and creative industries. He highlighted that while the nation has historically prioritized oil and business sectors, arts and culture have often been overlooked.

“Trinidad and Tobago is rich in culture,” Montano said. “Caribbean music, soca music, is a Caribbean product, and Monk Music has embraced that platform to support young people. We aim to build bridges with global platforms like Apple, Spotify, YouTube, and Empire to give rising artists access to the tools and relationships they need to succeed.”

Reflections on Soca Monarch and the Future of Soca

Addressing the recently announced government-led soca competition and calls to revive the Soca Monarch, Montano shared his perspective on the



Dwayne Bravo and Machel Montano at the December launch of the Pineapple Riddim.

evolution of the music industry.

“In life, we don’t get to go back, only forward. What got us here won’t get us there,” he said, reflecting on the golden era of Soca Monarch competitions featuring himself, Bunji Garlin, Fay-Ann Lyons, Destra Garcia, Iwer George, and SuperBlue.

While acknowledging the foundational role of Soca Monarch in building artists’ careers, Montano emphasized that the current era demands collaboration over competition. He called for a focus on enhancing the quality of soca music, including its writing, production, marketing, and messaging, to inspire both young people and the wider nation.

“I believe soca is next in line to become mainstream,” Montano said. “Afrobeats is taking the world by storm, and its sound is very similar to soca. We need to focus on making soca a global product by increasing access to new audiences in regions like India, Africa, and London, while nurturing the new generation of rising artists.”

Supporting Emerging Talent

Montano and Bravo both spoke about the importance of developing young talent like 47 Ronzy, with Bravo highlighting his persistence in collaborating with Montano to bring the riddim to life. The event also featured live snippets of the tracks from all five artists. Patrice Roberts, who was overseas, appeared via video to share her excitement about her contribution to the project.

Montano concluded by expressing optimism about the future of soca music, citing the interest of international audiences, including a German contingent currently studying and investing in soca.

“Carnival and competitions will always exist, but our focus is on working together to take soca to new heights,” he said.

The Pineapple Riddim is poised to make waves in the Carnival 2025 season, celebrating the genre’s vibrant energy and global potential.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Buju Banton To Headline Inaugural Tobago Rhythm And Soul Festival 2025

Grammy-winning Jamaican reggae icon Buju Banton is set to headline the inaugural Tobago Rhythm and Soul Festival this April.

The festival, hosted by the Tobago Festivals Commission, will run from April 17 to 20, offering a lineup of diverse artists across different nights to cater to a variety of musical tastes. The announcement of Buju Banton's performance generated significant buzz online. On December 7, the commission's Facebook post garnered over 400 shares and more than 200 comments from excited fans eagerly anticipating the event.

Filling The Void For April Music Events

In 2024, the Tobago Festivals Commission chose not to host the customary Tobago Jazz Festival in April. Chief Secretary Farley Augustine stated that his administration aimed to let the private sector lead such events while the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) would play a supporting role.

This shift led to the creation of the Tobago Jazz and Music Weekend, hosted by Trinidad-based promotions company BlackTwoSugars from April 25-28, 2024.

In an interview with Newsday on December 9,



Buju is heading to Tobago in April.

Tobago Festivals Marketing and Communications Manager Anjaana Downes emphasized that the Tobago Rhythm and Soul Festival is not meant to replace the jazz festival. Instead, it fills the gap left by the absence of an April event hosted by the commission.

A Festival For All Audiences

The Tobago Rhythm and Soul Festival promises to appeal to a broad demographic with its three-night lineup, each night tailored to different audiences.

Saturday Night: Features a Seafood and Jazz event catering to a mature audience.

Sunday Night: A mixed-audience celebration with the headline performance by Buju Banton.

Downes encouraged the public to stay updated via the festival's social media pages and website,

where ticket details and early-bird specials will soon be announced. Tickets will be

available through islandtickets.com.



Musical Tribute To Gregory Isaacs Set To Open In London This Year

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

'Cool Ruler: A Musical Tribute to Gregory Isaacs,' a stage production based on the career of the reggae singer, opens on May 25th at Hackney Empire in London.

A joint project between Isaacs' wife June and British promoter John "Bagga John" Farquarson, 'Cool Ruler' celebrates the music of the popular Kington-born artist who died in London in October 2010 at age 60. Terence Wallen, a British singer of Jamaican heritage, will play Isaacs in a non-speaking role. He will be backed by the five-piece Delroy Murray Band.

Isaacs had a massive following in the United Kingdom. At the height of his career, he packed venues such as the Brixton Academy and Hammersmith Palais.

Farquarson, who promoted the event at Hammersmith Palais, said rehearsals for Cool Ruler, are scheduled to start this month. June Isaacs and



The late Gregory Isaacs will be remembered with a special theatrical tribute in London later this year.

Copeland Forbes, Isaacs' former manager, will select songs for the theater-style shows which also take place at Fairfield Halls in Croydon on May 31st, and on June 1st at O2 Academy in Birmingham. More dates are expected to be announced. The shows will mark Isaacs' 75th birthday on July 15th.

This is the latest venture by June Isaacs to honor her husband's legacy. 'Red Rose For Gregory,' a concert held on Mother's Day annually, is the best known of those initiatives.

They were married in

December 1983 when the singer was one of the most revered entertainers out of Jamaica, thanks to a series of lovers rock ballads like 'All I Have Is Love,' 'Soon Forward,' 'Tune In,' 'Night Nurse' and 'Love me With Feeling.'

Although his laid-back style and custom-made outfits earned him the nickname 'The Cool Ruler,' Isaacs had a cocaine habit that landed him before the courts in Jamaica numerous times. He was jailed for six months in 1982 for illegal possession of firearms. While the Gregory Isaacs catalog is stacked with lovers' rock songs, he also recorded a number of classic message tracks including 'The Border,' 'Slave Master' and 'Rumors.'

Born in London to Jamaican parents, Farquarson has promoted shows in the UK featuring other elite acts such as Dennis Brown, Freddie McGregor, Beres Hammond, Buju Banton, Marcia Griffiths and Frankie Paul.



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Caribbean Cookout Bags An Emmy

Caribbean Cookout, the acclaimed Island TV Network series, has won an Emmy Award from the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The show celebrates Caribbean culture, cuisine, and storytelling, highlighting the deep connections between food and community.

Now in its second season, the Emmy-winning series continues to engage audiences with vibrant stories and authentic flavours from the Caribbean. Each episode features talented chefs from different islands who share not only their recipes but also their personal histories and cultural pride.

"For us, each dish is more than food - it's a piece of history, a family tradition, and a story that deserves to be shared," said Tamara B. Rodriguez, executive producer and co-creator.



Pictured from left to right: The Caribbean Cookout team - Arash Farsi, director; Valeska Valencia, executive producer and co-creator; Tamara Rodriguez, executive producer and co-creator; Christian Fombrun, executive producer and co-creator and Anaise Manuel, executive producer and co-creator. (islandoriginsmag.com image)

Co-creator Anaise Manuel added, "This Emmy win is a celebration for every islander and food lover who keeps these traditions alive. Come for the food, stay for the stories!"

As the first Caribbean-themed cooking show of its kind, Caribbean Cookout

continues to spotlight the richness of Caribbean life. Island TV Network expressed gratitude to its audience and sponsors, including Fresh From Florida and Campari Caribbean, for supporting this cultural milestone.



Guyanese Chef Puts Local Cuisine In Global Spotlight

BY ALLISON SKEETE

Ten years ago, Chef Delven Adams returned to Guyana to build on a dream he was cultivating for many years in his adopted New Jersey home in the US. He returned with a dream and a vision to do something that no other self-taught or Michelin awarded, or French and American trained culinary big name has done in and for Guyana. Adams returned and created a niche for himself and now boasts a treasure trove of supporters from near and far, using his own instincts and incorporating instances and flavours with his own mixed heritage influences.

He's turned his dream into a vision called the Backyard Café – Guyana's Original Backyard Café, situated in West Ruimveldt, Georgetown. The intimate venue offers the warmth of true Guyanese hospitality and its authentic cuisine. He has catered to international dignitaries, visiting and returning Guyanese and notable culinary giants from the Caribbean region and abroad including Chef Gordon Ramsay. Guests must provide advance notice as Chef Adams prepares meals to order on the day of your visit. On this visit, I had coconut duff as well as fish with rice and vegetables. Also a hit is his pepper pot and egg balls that are served with a sweet and tangy sour.

In 2021, internationally



Guyanese Chef Adams of Backyard Cafe, Guyana with his pepperpot dish. (Contributed image/NewsAmericasNow.com)

acclaimed Chef Ramsay of the UK enjoyed a trek through the jungle learning to hunt and fish with Amerindian Guyanese, touring the local market and challenging Adams to make a native dish as well as crediting him with the opportunity to help put Guyanese cuisine on the map.

The visit was recorded for Ramsay's television show 'Uncharted,' on National Geographic, and has helped open doors for many other aspiring Guyanese heritage culinary chefs and caterers, whether in Guyana or abroad, including Guyanese-born Tavel Bristol Joseph, whose restaurant in Texas is named Canje, after Guyana's national bird, the Canje Pheasant.

In the 10 years since his return, Chef Adams has further developed his vision with a respected Market

Tour excursion for visitors to Guyana, where the locally grown produce that he uses in his cooking are sourced. He has developed his own sauces and seasonings and has a hit social media platform that takes supporters along on the tour and other events, where his food and skills have been showcased across the Caribbean and close to home in Suriname as well.

Chef Adams has also begun mentoring young and eager Guyanese who show an interest in the culinary world. He's helped sponsor attendees to the Carnegie School of Home Economics in Georgetown and welcomes other supporters who are willing to also sponsor upcoming young culinary students. Chef Adams is now looking forward to helping others achieve their goals and will continue to promote the fusion soul of Guyanese cuisine that reflects its Amerindian, African, Asian, Indian, European and mixed ethnic blend of flavours and spices that create a one-of-a-kind dynamic for your tastebuds.

As he puts it: "Every dish I create is a tribute to Guyana – the warmth of our people, the richness of our spices, and the stories woven into every bite."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Celebrate Haiti With Soup Joumou All Month Long



Haitian tradition holds that the soup was enjoyed by the slave masters on the former French colony, while the Haitian slaves were forbidden it. Consequently, Soup Joumou is traditionally consumed on New Year's Day, January 1st, as a historical tribute to Haitian independence in 1804. But you can enjoy it all month. Here's how to easily make it.

Soup Joumou

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb of beef
- 1/2 cup of olive oil
- Water as needed
- 1 large scallion, diced
- 1 half medium cabbage, diced
- 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 yam, peeled and chopped
- 2 malanga, peeled and chopped
- 2 butternut squash, peeled and chopped
- 2 turnips, peeled and chopped
- 1 stalk of celery chopped
- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 6 oz. package of spaghetti
- 1 tablespoon of tomato paste
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper
- 4 parsley sprigs
- Meat seasoning spices:
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp thyme
- 2 shallots, diced
- 1 tsp Adobo seasoning salt
- 2 Maggi chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder

METHOD

Meat

- Clean the meat with lime and/or sour orange juice. Season well for a few hours. For best results, refrigerate overnight.
- Marinate the meat overnight or for at least 1 hour.

- Place the seasoned meat in a stockpot and cover with water.
- Add oil and let boil over high heat. Keep covered until the water has evaporated.
- Uncover, stir and simmer a few drops of water occasionally to brown the meat.
- Keep stirring and simmer water occasionally until you have a nice browning colour to the meat
- Stir in one tbsp of tomato paste. Remove meat and set aside pot for the vegetables.

Vegetables

- In a separate bowl, cut into small pieces the large scallions and half medium cabbage.
- Peel and chop the potato, yam, malanga, butternut squash, carrots, and turnip.
- Wash the vegetables. Add to a separate pot of boiling water.
- Cover and cook over high heat for about an hour. Reduce heat and add scotch bonnet pepper.
- Once the squash is fully cooked, remove it from the pot. Use some of the cooking water to blend the squash into a puree.

For best flavouring, pour the cooked vegetables, the squash puree and cooking liquid into the pot that cooked the meat.

Add parsley, thyme, and broken spaghetti (or substitute with macaroni).

Let it all cook, until tender. Combine meat into soup. Serve hot.

Cooking Time – 2 hours
Servings – 6-8

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HEALTH NEWS



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10 Recommendations For A Healthy 2025

Looking to improve your health in 2025 and beyond? Check out these recommendations from the American Medical Association: **Make Nutritional Tweaks** Reduce your intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open. Drink water and choose nutritious, whole foods including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats and poultry.

Get Active

A recent study published in JAMA found that putting down the TV remote and going for a walk can improve healthy aging - highlighting the importance of small everyday habits. Adults should get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

Get Up To Date

Get your vaccines in advance of respiratory virus season - including the annual flu vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six months and older, as well as pregnant people. People 65 and older and those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a second dose of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months later.

RSV can be dangerous for older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend those 75 and older, and 60 and older at high risk for severe RSV, get vaccinated. Immunizations are also available to protect babies from getting very sick from RSV. This is important because RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization nationwide.

If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including GetMyFluShot.org. You can also reduce the spread of respiratory



viruses by covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing your hands, wearing masks, improving air quality, and staying home if you are sick.

Get Screened

Make an appointment for preventive care, tests and screenings to help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious. Know your blood pressure numbers: Visit ManageYourBP.org to understand your blood pressure numbers and take necessary steps to get hypertension under control. Doing so will reduce your risk

of heart attack and stroke. If checking your blood pressure at home, visit ValidateBP.org to see if your device has been tested for accuracy.

Learn Your Type 2 Diabetes Risk

Take a 2-minute self-screening test at DoIHavePrediabetes.org. Steps you take now can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, which carries a higher risk of heart disease, kidney disease and vision loss.

Drink Only In Moderation

If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans - up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

Quit Tobacco And Nicotine

Ask your doctor for resources and guidance for quitting tobacco and nicotine. Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate

second-hand smoke exposure. Follow Dosage Instructions When taking prescription opioids or other medications, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover medication. If you're prescribed antibiotics, take the full course to prevent antibiotic resistance—a serious public health problem.

Manage Stress

Good mental health is part of good overall health. Get sufficient sleep (at least 7.5 hours per night), exercise and ask for help from a mental health professional when you need it.

"The best way to address the post-holiday doldrums is to do something good for your health," said Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the AMA. "Even small, positive choices you make now can have a big impact on your long-term wellbeing."

- StatePoint



Why Do Some Parents Defend Their Kids' Molesters?

BY TERESA HUIZAR

The recently released Netflix series on the Menendez brothers

reignited debate over whether a parent would overlook their child's abuse at the hands of their spouse.

The sad truth is that these sorts of cases are far from unique or even uncommon.

A parent faced with the

abusive conduct of a partner, family member, or friend must confront the unthinkable -- harm to their child and the worst possible betrayal committed by someone they perhaps considered to be their life partner, better half, or best friend. Parents should know that initial feelings of confusion, or even shocked disbelief, are not unusual.

But parents should also know that the decisions made in the immediate aftermath of such a revelation will have a lifelong impact. Rates of depression, PTSD, substance abuse, and suicide are all significantly higher for victims of child sexual assault. A child's trauma is only compounded if a trusted adult denies or minimizes the abuse.

To protect their child, parents don't need to immediately believe every word they say. But they need to report the abuse, separate their child from the offender, and suspend their own disbelief through the course of an investigation.

Often, those actions give parents the time they need to process the reality of what happened. But there are other pitfalls that may hinder a parent from supporting a child. It's important for every parent and child advocate to be aware of these barriers and work to overcome them.

If the offender is the primary breadwinner in the family, the non-offending parent may panic over housing and financial stability. This is especially true in circumstances where the parent lacks a solid support system. Can they rely on friends or family? Or are they dependent on their child's abuser?

Often, concerns about public image arise. A non-offending parent may worry at the prospect of losing their social and

professional circles.

Experiencing child sexual abuse is a devastating trauma. And while a parent experiences their own form of psychological trauma upon learning their child was abused, the obligation to protect their child must always come first. The good news is that help is available for families navigating this excruciating time. Experts working at Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide play a pivotal role in ensuring that abused children and their caregivers receive the support they need. Professionals at these centers provide therapy, medical care, and liaising with police -- but also advice, like how to get the offender removed from the home and how to tell family, friends, or teachers about what happened.

According to the CDC, an estimated one in four girls and one in 20 boys experience child sexual abuse. Its prevalence is believed to be higher because children often wait years to report abuse. About 30% of victims have been sexually abused by a family member, while roughly 90% know their abuser in some way. Parents everywhere should take note, listen, and learn.

A child's disclosure of abuse is shocking, disturbing, and life changing. But supporting your child from the start is always the right thing to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Teresa Huizar is CEO of Washington, D.C.-based National Children's Alliance (NCA), the nation's network of nearly 1,000 Children's Advocacy Centers, providing justice and healing through services to child victims of abuse and their families.



Spring Health



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

With a proven track record now in our 35th year of service to readers in the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Caribbean Today reaches an audience of over 112,000 highly qualified readers. They have median household income of \$63,000 and enjoy a higher disposable income. 19% have a college degree, 32% have some college. In today's economy,

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DEADLINE IS MARCH 25, 2025

These Top Luxury Resorts Are Opening In The Caribbean This Year

The Caribbean is set to welcome an array of luxurious new resorts this year, offering travellers unparalleled experiences in some of the world's most stunning destinations. From secluded private islands to vibrant beachfront properties, these resorts represent the best in luxury, relaxation, and adventure. Here's a preview of some of the additional new top resorts set to debut across the Caribbean this year:

Four Seasons Resort and Residences Caye Chapel, Belize

This marks Four Seasons' first private island in the Americas. Located on the sunset side of Caye Chapel, Belize, the Four Seasons Private Residence 19 will redefine luxury with panoramic ocean views and elegantly designed outdoor spaces. This 4,807-square-foot residence, priced at \$6.5 million, will feature a private plunge pool, waterfront access, and amenities like an outdoor kitchen, fire pits, and seamless indoor-outdoor transitions.

It is also perched near the UNESCO-listed Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve, home to the Western Hemisphere's largest barrier reef. The property offers unmatched access to Belize's natural wonders while embodying the signature comfort of Four Seasons hospitality.

The island will also feature a 104-key resort, 18 overwater bungalows, and 24 exclusive residences, blending modern luxury with pristine surroundings. Designed by Mauricio Gomez de Tundo and Taller G, with interiors by Meyer Davis, Residence 19 integrates natural materials and sophisticated finishes, making it a haven for relaxation and entertaining.

Grand Hyatt Grand Cayman Resort & Spa

The Cayman Islands will host its first Hyatt-branded hotel on Seven Mile Beach. The Grand Hyatt Grand Cayman Resort & Spa will feature a spa, fitness center, pools, and Camp Hyatt for kids, catering to both families and luxury-seekers. It is set to become the pinnacle of Caribbean luxury. This first-of-its-kind contemporary development will offer 164 elegantly designed residences, all featuring ocean views and private terraces that blur the line between indoor and outdoor living. The resort will allow guests to enter through a dramatic threshold bridge into its breathtaking lobby, complete with a Gallery Living Room and Gourmet Market. With 900 feet of beachfront, a main pool overlooking the ocean, and fully serviced cabanas, relaxation will come effortlessly. Children can enjoy their own pool near Camp Hyatt, ensuring fun for the whole family.

Exclusive ownership



Salterra, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa is set to open in Turks & Caicos next month.

benefits will include \$2,500 annual resort credit, Hyatt Globalist membership, discounts on dining, spa services, and accommodations, plus VIP priority reservations.

Salterra, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Turks & Caicos

South Caicos will welcome Salterra in February 2025, offering 100 ocean-view rooms and suites with private balconies. With six dining options, a full-service spa, and a kids' club, it promises to be a sanctuary for relaxation. Nestled on the secluded Salterra Beach, Salterra Resort & Spa will be the newest gem in The Luxury Collection, offering an unparalleled experience in Turks and Caicos. Every room boasts breathtaking ocean views, overlooking the pristine beach, the barrier reef, and the striking Fish Rock. Guests can choose from elegant one- and two-bedroom rooms, spacious suites, or the exclusive penthouse suite.

The resort's design pays homage to South Caicos' historic sea salt industry, once the nation's largest salt producer. The nearby salinas are a haven for vibrant birdlife, including flamingos, egrets, and herons, adding to the area's natural charm.

Salterra will feature a diverse culinary scene with gourmet dining at Brine, laid-back elegance at Regatta and Cobo Bar & Grill, and casual fare at Flamingo Café. The Spa at Salterra will offer indulgent treatments in a setting inspired by the island's heritage, complete with vitality pools, saunas, and more. It will be perfect for weddings, retreats, or a serene getaway.

Secrets Resorts Expands to St. Lucia and Aruba

Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa: This adults-only, all-inclusive resort opens in January 2025. Arrive via a scenic drive through St. Lucia's lush landscapes, where every detail of your stay has been crafted for unparalleled comfort. From romantic rendezvous to unforgettable adventures, Secrets St. Lucia offers the perfect backdrop for pampering, relaxation, and

lasting memories. Experience tropical luxury redefined at this idyllic escape. Set amidst 30 acres of lush tropical gardens, the resort features 355 elegant accommodations, each with private balconies and panoramic views of the sea, mountains, or volcanic beaches. Indulge in Unlimited-Luxury with gourmet dining at nine restaurants, six bars, 24-hour room service, and top-shelf drinks. Rejuvenate at the world-class spa, enjoy nearby golf courses, and explore a wide range of activities on land and water.

Secrets Baby Beach Aruba: Opening in March 2025, Secrets Baby Beach Aruba is an adults-only, all-inclusive oasis located on the pristine southern coast of San Nicolas. This luxurious retreat

will offer 304 elegantly designed suites, many with breathtaking ocean views, and is perfect for couples seeking romance and relaxation. Enjoy the expansive infinity pool, unlimited gourmet dining, top-shelf spirits, and live entertainment in an idyllic setting of white sands and turquoise waters. Indulge in rejuvenating treatments at the Secrets Spa, designed to pamper and restore. Secrets Baby Beach Aruba promises an unforgettable escape, blending tranquillity, luxury, and unparalleled beauty.

The St. Regis Cap Cana Resort, Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, The St. Regis Cap Cana Resort is set to open by late Q1 2025. Guests can enjoy 200 rooms, including suites with swim-out options, a St. Regis Spa and event spaces, all in a prime beachfront location. The St. Regis Cap Cana Resort guests will be able to savour nine exceptional culinary experiences, from gourmet dining at Nina, led by a celebrity chef, to the barefoot charm of Marola Sea Side Bar. Indulge in bespoke treatments at The St. Regis Spa or unwind at The Amber Room cigar bar. Host events in stunning venues like the Poinciana Ballroom. Every moment will reflect the timeless elegance and impeccable service that define the St. Regis brand.

Zemi Miches All-Inclusive Resort, Curio Collection by Hilton

The coastal town of Miches in the Dominican Republic will debut this 500-room, family-friendly property in February 2025. With a waterpark, six restaurants, a spa, and retail shops, Zemi Miches offers something for everyone. Overlooking the crystal-clear waters of Playa Esmeralda, the all-inclusive oceanfront resort will offer the perfect escape. Located 90 minutes from Punta Cana International Airport, the resort boasts an exclusive beach near Redonda Mountain, 10+ restaurants and bars, four pools, a waterpark, and a full-service spa. Club Azure and bungalow guests enjoy elevated amenities, including rooftop pool access and exclusive dining options.

Stay in Caribbean-inspired rooms, suites, or bungalows with stunning views, some featuring private plunge pools. Savor diverse menus inspired by Caribbean, Thai, and Italian traditions, and sip tropical cocktails at swim-up bars. With 1,000 sq. m. of event space, custom catering, and group activities, the resort is perfect for memorable events.

- NewsAmericasNow.com





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FEATURE



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Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Ties To The Caribbean

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

As the nation celebrates the birthday of Civil Rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 20, 2025, Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute is pointing to the "I Have a Dream" hero's ties to the Caribbean.

According to the Institute, in 1967, a year before his assassination in Memphis Tennessee, King and his wife, Coretta Scott King were vacationing in Ocho Rios, Jamaica when he wrote the manuscript of his last book, "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?"

The couple rented a secluded house with no

telephone, isolating themselves for a while to the rest of the world so King could focus on finishing his novel. "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community," was King's analysis of the state of American race relations and the movement after a decade of U.S. civil rights struggles.

"With Selma and the Voting Rights Act one phase of development in the civil rights revolution came to an end," he wrote. King believed that the next phase in the movement would bring its own challenges, as African Americans continued to make demands for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, an education equal to that of whites, and a guarantee that the rights won in the Civil Rights Act of



The Rev. Dr Martin Luther King (second from right) studies photographs hanging from the cut-stone backing of Marcus Garvey Mausoleum after laying a wreath at Garvey's shrine in the George VI Memorial Park on Tuesday, June 22, 1965. Others in the picture are, from left, Mr Frank Hill, Chairman of the Jamaica National Trust Commission; Mrs Amy Jacques Garvey (Mr Garvey's widow) and Mr Eustace White, secretary of the Jamaican branch of the U.N.I.A. (Jamaica Gleaner archival image)

1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would be enforced by the federal government.

He warned that "the persistence of racism in depth and the dawning awareness that Negro demands will necessitate structural changes in society have generated a new phase of white resistance in North and South."

After the book's publication in June 1967, King used its promotional tour to reinforce points raised in its pages,

speaking out on the living conditions of many black Americans and against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Dr. King was a vocal critic of the war.

At a luncheon in his honor, King chided the nation for doing nothing to eradicate slum conditions: "Everyone is worrying about the long hot summer with its threat of riots. We had a long cold winter when little was done about the conditions that create riots," he said at the time.

During a July television appearance, King repeated his assertion, made in the book and in his April 1967 speech "Beyond Vietnam," that "the war in Vietnam is clearly an unjust war."

In 1965, Dr. King received the Key to the City of Kingston and delivered a speech to graduating class of the Mona campus of the University of West Indies in which he said, "In Jamaica, I feel like a human being." The legacy of Dr. King, who led the Civil Rights movement for equality for Blacks, lives on.

SOUTH FLORIDA TRIBUTE

South Florida is planning a series of events to pay homage to Dr. King on Jan. 20th, including MLK Veterans Day Salute at the Mizell Community Center in Broward County, MLK Day Celebration with gospel music at the Coca-Cola Zero Sugar Stage in West Palm Beach, Social Justice events, and the 5000 Role Models annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Scholarship Breakfast in Miami Beach.

Of course, MLK Day is not complete with parades throughout South Florida with floats and local celebrities and dignitaries, first responders, high school marching bands and dance groups.

The city of Miramar,

one of the largest Caribbean communities in South Florida, is gearing up for its annual MLK Day extravaganza.

The day begins at 11 a.m. with the traditional parade around Sherman Circle, and the celebration continues at Lakeshore Park from noon to 4 p.m. The event's emcee will be Radio Personality Rodney Baltimore and musical performances will be by International Recording Artist Rose Royce, Willie Stewart's Solution in Music, Terrion Nelson, Lee Johnson & The Driving Force Band and L.O.S. (The Ladies of Soul). Comedian Carolyn Harvey will also perform. A kids zone, food trucks and merchandise vendor will also be part of the festivities.

Miami Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, who's founder of the 5000 Role Models, a program that pairs children with mentors, said Dr. King is one of the world's greatest humanitarians and leaders in the fight for social and racial justice.

"Let us remember Dr. King's courage, wisdom and inner strength that gave us all hope that we could live out the American dream, of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Wilson, who is of Bahamian descent, said in a statement. "Let us remember his unwavering belief that we could live a life without fear of persecution for our religious, political or cultural beliefs. Let us honor Dr. King by working in Congress to provide jobs and put Americans back to work, by building economic opportunities and making education and healthcare more accessible and affordable."

State Senator Shervin Jones, from West Park, said the fight for equal rights continue and "we must not" forget Dr. King's work during the Civil Rights Movement.

"We cannot ignore the ongoing fight for human and civil rights that persists today," Jones said in a statement. "Dr. King so eloquently noted in his last speech, 'I've Been to the Mountaintop,' the reality that our country remains a work in progress, calling on America to 'Be true to what you said on paper.'"

Jones said the rally to protest Florida's six-month abortion ban in 2023, when Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried, Senate Democratic Leader Lauren Book, and other peaceful protestors were arrested while demonstrating, was an assault on their civil rights by Republicans.

"Our right to protest and speak freely without fear of legal intervention ought to be safe, but that's unfortunately not the case in Gov. Ron DeSantis' Florida," Jones said.



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Sunshine Girls Eyeing More Success Against South Africa

Fresh off their series win against England, Jamaica's netballers are focused on more glory when they face South Africa in their upcoming three-match series.

The third ranked Sunshine Girls will take on the fifth ranked South Africans on January 18th, 22nd, and 25th, at the National Indoor Sports Centre in St Andrew.

Their 2-1 victory over England propelled them to third in the world rankings and with more points at stake against South Africa, goal shoot Shanice Beckford said the Sunshine Girls would be going all out to secure

the win.

Additionally, she said the series would serve as critical preparation for the World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

"The South Africa series is very important for us in terms of getting some match play under our belts and knowing that we just came off a series victory over England in November.

"It is also important for us leading up to the World Championships and Commonwealth Games in 2026 and 2027 and also to give our young players some much-

needed exposure as well," Beckford pointed out.

"We are taking this series very seriously because it is a ranking series, and you know that we just moved up to third in the rankings."

Beckford said while they had not played South Africa recently, she expected a tough challenge from the visitors.

"We know that the South Africans will be coming very strong, and so I know that the series is going to be tough for us, but I can assure



The Sunshine Girls are hoping for a series victory over South Africa.

"We haven't played against them in a very long time and so we are looking forward to this three-Test series and I know that it is going to be very exciting," Beckford said.

"The girls have been training and, in the gym, putting in the hard work over Christmas, getting the combinations right, and so we are all very excited and can't wait to step out onto the court for this series."

- CMC



you that we are ready for the battle.

Jamaica Striker Grateful For Life After Car Accident

Jamaica and West Ham United forward Michail Antonio is thanking his lucky stars that he can see the year 2025 as he expresses his gratitude to be alive after surviving a serious car accident that left him with a broken leg.

The 34-year-old was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday, over three weeks after undergoing surgery to treat a lower limb fracture sustained in the crash on December 7 in Epping, Essex.

Emergency services had to free Antonio from his car, after which he was transported to a central London hospital for



Jamaica and West Ham United forward Michail Antonio is thanking his lucky stars.

treatment.

Reflecting on his ordeal, Antonio shared an emotional

post on Instagram, accompanied by a photo of himself using crutches.

"Every year around this time, I'm asked what I'm grateful for, and every year I've struggled to find the right words. But this year, I know exactly what I'm grateful for: being alive."

Antonio, who is West Ham's all-time leading Premier League scorer with 68 goals in 268 appearances, spoke candidly about how the experience has changed his perspective on life.

"I've spent so many years taking life for granted, making plans for tomorrow and the years ahead as though they were guaranteed. But what I've been through recently has opened my

eyes. Life is fragile, and every single moment matters."

He credited his survival to divine intervention, saying, "I'm so grateful to God for giving me the strength to keep going and for allowing me to still be here."

Antonio also took the opportunity to thank emergency responders, medical staff, and the football community for their unwavering support.

"The love and care I've received has meant the world to me. I'm endlessly grateful for every single one of you."

- CMC



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SPORTS NEWS



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Windies Trio Named In ESPNcricinfo's T20 Team of the Year

The West Indian trio of Sherfane Rutherford, Nicholas Pooran and Andre Russell have been rewarded for their impressive performances in 2024 by being named in the ESPNcricinfo's One Day International and T20 Teams of the Year.

Rutherford, who was recently nominated for the ICC's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award, is included in the ODI team, while Pooran and Russell are in the T20 team.

The 26-year-old Rutherford was included ahead of teammate Keacy Carty and England's

Harry Brook after scoring 425 runs in seven innings at an average of 106.25.

Earlier this month, he scored five consecutive 50-plus scores in ODIs, becoming the fourth West Indian after Gordon Greenidge, Chris Gayle and Shai Hope, who have six in a row each, to achieve this feat.

The team comprises Sri



Nicholas Pooran is one of three Windies players named in ESPNcricinfo's T20 Team of the Year.

Lanka's quartet of Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Charith Asalanka and Wanindu Hasaranga; Afghanistan's Rahman-ullah Gurbaz, Azmat-ullah Omarzai and Mohammad Nabi; Liam Livingstone from England, Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed and Haris Rauf of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pooran enjoyed a stellar year in the T20 format, scoring 2331 runs in 74 innings at an average of 40.89 and an impressive strike rate of 157.3. He also scored one century and 15 half centuries.

Russell also had an outstanding year where he accumulated 1075 runs at a strike rate of 185.3 and took 49 wickets at a strike rate of 26.2.

The other members of the team include Travis Head of Australia, England's Phil Salt, Tilak Varma, Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah of India, South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen and Tristan Stubbs, Rashid Khan of Afghanistan and Matheesha Pathirana of Sri Lanka.

- CMC



More Honors For Julien

While anticipation builds for the upcoming track and field season, Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred remains in the spotlight, receiving more accolades for her phenomenal achievements in 2024.

The 23-year-old Olympic champion from Ciceron has added two more prestigious awards to her growing collection this week.

On Monday, renowned American website FloTrack named Alfred their Breakthrough Performer of the Year. This



Saint Lucia's 23-year-old Olympic champion Julien Alfred remains in the spotlight.

recognition, determined through fan votes and nominations by the FloTrack team, highlights her historic year, which included winning the World Indoors 60m title, Olympic gold and

silver, and the Diamond League 100m title, all groundbreaking accomplishments for Saint Lucia.

In addition, FloTrack honoured world record holders Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Mondo Duplantis as their Professional Athletes of the Year for women and men, respectively. Notably, FloTrack has closely followed Alfred's journey since her days as a student-athlete at the University

of Texas, where she secured multiple national titles for the Longhorns.

Alfred's triumphs have also garnered regional recognition. This week, she was named one of the Persons of the Year by Everybody's, a prominent Caribbean-American magazine based in Brooklyn, New York. Alongside fellow Olympic gold medallist Thea LaFond-Gadson of Dominica, Alfred was among six Eastern Caribbean athletes

celebrated by the publication. These latest honours join a growing list of awards Alfred has received in 2024, including those from the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC), and Athletics Weekly.

- CMC



Windies Player Signs Up For Pakistan Super League Draft

West Indies left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie is among 22 international players who have registered for the Pakistan Super League (PSL), Season 10 draft, set to take place on January 11th, in the picturesque city of Gwadar, Balochistan.

The Guyanese Motie, who took the ICC Player of the Month award in June of last year, joins an elite band of international players including seasoned New Zealand cricketers Martin Guptill and Tim Southee who are among the latest to join the pool of international talent.

The PCB, which earlier opened the registration and trade window for foreign players, has

reported an enthusiastic response, heightening anticipation for the league's landmark 10th edition.

The draft pick order for the coveted platinum category has also been confirmed. Defending champions Lahore Qalandars will have the first pick, followed by Karachi Kings, Quetta Gladiators, Peshawar Zalmi, Multan Sultans, and Islamabad United. This positions the Qalandars to have a significant impact by securing a marquee overseas player at the outset.

Registered International Players

New Zealand: Martin Guptill, Tim Southee, Colin Munro, Daryl Mitchell

South Africa: Rassie van der Dussen, Corbin Bosch, Rilee Rossouw

Australia: Matthew Short, Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Usman Khawaja

England: Alex Hales, Luke Wood, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Tom Curran, David Willey, Dawid Malan, Jason Roy

West Indies: Gudakesh Motie

Bangladesh: Shakib Al Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman

Zimbabwe: Sikandar Raza

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Daren Sammy To Lead West Indies In All Formats As Head Coach From April

Former West Indies captain Daren Sammy will take charge of the regional team across all formats starting April 1, 2025, following his success as head coach of the T20 and ODI teams. The decision to expand Sammy's role comes as his contract with the white-ball teams is renewed. Sammy will succeed Andre Coley, who has served as the Test team's head coach since May 2023. Coley's tenure will end after the two-match series against Pakistan, scheduled from January 16 to 28, 2025.

Sammy's Impact as White-Ball Head Coach
Since taking the reins of the West Indies' T20 and ODI sides 18 months ago, the 40-year-old

Sammy has overseen significant progress. The T20 team has secured 20 wins from 35 matches, while the ODI team has triumphed in 15 of 28 games. By contrast, the Test team under Coley struggled, winning only one series against Zimbabwe in early 2024 while losing to India, England, and South Africa.

Leadership Transition
CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, lauded Sammy's leadership and expressed confidence in his ability to revitalize the Test team. "We've been impressed with how he has chartered the course for our white-ball teams, guiding them towards consistency of performance," Bascombe said.



Daren Sammy will lead West Indies in all formats as head coach from April, 2025.

"That is exactly what we want to see in our Test team." Bascombe also thanked Coley for his service, promising full support for the remainder of his tenure.

Sammy's Vision for Test Cricket
Sammy, who was visibly excited about the new challenge, said he was ready to address key areas to elevate the Test team's performance. "It's always an honor to represent the West Indies in any capacity," Sammy said. "Coaching wasn't something I initially saw myself doing, but I've developed a strong passion for the job." Sammy emphasized the importance of trust, patience, and processes to build a successful team. "I've already mapped out areas and processes that we'll need to address to become competitive again in

Test cricket," he said. "I'm really excited about the added responsibility and the journey ahead."
Looking Ahead
Sammy's first series as Test head coach will be the West Indies' home series against Australia this summer, marking the beginning of his tenure across all senior men's teams. This move underscores CWI's commitment to revitalize West Indies cricket and foster a unified approach to leadership under one of the region's most respected figures.

- *Rewritten from CMC*
★

Jamaican Named New CEO Of Cricket West Indies

Jamaican of Chris Dehring is the new CEO of Cricket West Indies, (CWI) has announced the appointment of Chris Dehring as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ushering in what officials describe as a transformative chapter for West Indies cricket. Dehring, a renowned Jamaican born entrepreneur and media innovator, will officially assume his role on February 1st. The announcement followed a global search process that attracted over 50 applicants from Europe, Australia, Afghanistan, India, and the Caribbean. CWI's President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, described Dehring as "the best of the best," highlighting his extensive track record of success across business, media, and cricket administration. "Chris Dehring represents the best of the best—an innovator, strategist, business magnate, and

passionate advocate for West Indies cricket," Dr. Shallow said. "His return as an executive at West Indies cricket signals the dawn of an exciting new era as we work to reclaim our position as a dominant force in world cricket." Dehring is widely recognized as the founder of SportsMax, the Caribbean's first sports television broadcaster, which reshaped the region's media landscape by airing global events such as the FIFA World Cup and the NBA. He also co-founded Dehring, Bunting & Golding, Jamaica's first investment bank, which became a financial powerhouse before being acquired by Scotiabank. Additionally, his entrepreneurial ventures include launching ReadyTV, Jamaica's first digital broadcast television service, and ReadyNET, the

country's first satellite internet provider. Dehring's contributions to cricket are well-established, having served as Managing Director and CEO of ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, where he successfully organized one of the most complex multi-nation sporting events in the Caribbean's history. In a statement, Dehring

expressed enthusiasm for his return to West Indies cricket leadership. "West Indies cricket has always held a special place in my heart," Dehring said. "As a unifying force and a symbol of pride for our region, I am honored to return to an organization that holds great significance to our people. Together with the CWI team and stakeholders, I am

committed to driving innovation, fostering talent, and reigniting the passion for West Indies cricket, both at home and globally." Dehring's vision and expertise are expected to play a pivotal role in the resurgence of West Indies cricket, a sport deeply woven into the cultural fabric of the region.
★

West Indies To Face Pakistan This Month

Cricket West Indies has announced the squad for the upcoming tour of Pakistan, where the team will play two Test matches from January 17 to January 29, 2025, at the Multan Cricket Stadium. This tour marks the West Indies' first Test series in Pakistan in 18 years and serves as the concluding chapter of the current ICC World Test Championship cycle.
Historic Return To Pakistan
The series is set to reignite the rivalry between the two teams and holds historic significance as the West Indies play Test cricket on Pakistani soil for the first time since 2007. The squad, led by captain Kraigg Brathwaite, includes a mix of seasoned players and promising newcomers. Left-handed batter Amir Jangoo, who recently made headlines with a match-winning century on his ODI debut against

Bangladesh, has earned his maiden Test call-up. Additionally, spinner Gudakesh Motie returns to the squad after missing the recent drawn series against Bangladesh.
West Indies Test Squad For Pakistan
Kraigg Brathwaite (Captain)
Joshua Da Silva (Vice-Captain)
Alick Athanaze
Keacy Carty
Justin Greaves
Kavem Hodge
Tevin Imlach
Amir Jangoo
Mikyle Louis
Gudakesh Motie
Anderson Phillip
Kemar Roach
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 - Proficiency with scheduling programs: Familiarity with electronic calendar systems and scheduling applications
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