

Caribbean Today

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



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(Bettmann Archive image)



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FEAR REIGNS

Trump's Deportation Plan Strikes Fear At The Heart Of Caribbean, Other Immigrants
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Jean-Michel Gisnel cries out while praying with congregants at the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield, Ohio. (AP/Luis Andres Henao image)

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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

Over 90,000 Caribbean nationals are among the 1.4 million non-citizens in the U.S. ordered deported but still residing in the country, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data from November 2024. With the Trump administration ramping up mass deportation efforts, concerns are rising about the fate of these individuals. The Caribbean nationals facing removal include: Cuba – 42,084
Haiti – 32,363
Dominican Republic – 12,699
Jamaica – 5,120
Trinidad and Tobago – 1,197
Guyana – 1,236
Belize – 899
Bahamas – 426
St. Lucia – 202
St. Vincent and the Grenadines – 127
Barbados – 151
Grenada – 149
St. Kitts and Nevis – 68
Dominica – 104
Bermuda – 10
British Virgin Islands – 5
Cayman Islands – 2
Guadeloupe – 12
Aruba – 2
Montserrat – 8
Many remain in the U.S. due to legal challenges, asylum claims, or lack of cooperation from foreign governments. Cuba

is the only Caribbean nation classified as “uncooperative”, while Jamaica and St. Lucia are deemed “at risk of non-compliance.” As deportation orders rise, questions remain about ICE’s ability to enforce removals effectively.

JAMAICA
Jamaica’s National Security Council has been reviewing U.S. President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, including his deportation stance, Information Minister Dr. Dana Morris Dixon has confirmed. Trump has also ordered a 90-day freeze on U.S. humanitarian, development, and security funding pending a review. Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith remains in ongoing discussions with U.S. officials and will provide updates soon. With hundreds of Jamaican and other Caribbean nationals expected to be deported and the U.S. ramping up border security, regional governments are preparing for their reintegration.

GUYANA
Guyana’s President Irfaan Ali has held talks with new U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday, discussing energy, security, democracy, and regional prosperity. The



Filly the jaguar has been transferred from The Belize Zoo to The Milwaukee County Zoo as part of the Human Jaguar Conflict Program.

U.S. State Department noted that the meeting also addressed illegal migration, with both sides agreeing to tackle the issue jointly. Rubio reaffirmed U.S. support for Guyana’s territorial integrity amid Venezuela’s claims over the oil-rich Essequibo region. US State Department spokesman, Tammy Bruce, said the discussions addressed “the crisis of illegal migration and agreed to jointly address this regional imperative and challenge. “The Secretary affirmed the United States’ steadfast support of Guyana’s territorial integrity in the face of Nicolás Maduro and his cronies’

bellicose actions,” Bruce added.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
T&T’s national airline, Caribbean Airlines, (CAL), has denied social media claims that its passengers are subject to mass secondary screenings upon arrival in the United States, particularly in Orlando, Florida. In a statement, CAL confirmed that thorough checks with senior personnel in Orlando found no such screenings had taken place. The airline also received no advisories from U.S. authorities on the matter. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has intensified immigration crackdowns, with thousands of undocumented immigrants arrested and deported, sparking backlash from advocacy groups.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne is demanding proportionate reparations from Harvard University, citing its early wealth’s ties to enslaved labor on the island’s plantations. His call follows a Harvard delegation’s visit to explore the university’s historical links to slavery and potential reparative measures. Browne criticized Harvard’s past efforts as insufficient, stating, “Our ancestors worked for centuries without pay, fueling Harvard’s early development. It’s time for meaningful action.” Members of the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery initiative met with Prime Minister Gaston A. Browne and Governor General Rodney E.L. Williams of Antigua and Barbuda recently, after the initiative’s research team determined that “several hundred people” had been enslaved by Harvard affiliates in the island nation between the 1660s and 1815.

According to Harvard Slavery Remembrance Program Director Richard J. Cellini, HSRP has discovered four Harvard-affiliated enslavers and “at least five” slave plantations in Antigua populated by people they had enslaved. The list of “several hundred names” of enslaved individuals was “a pretty major breakthrough,” Cellini said. “We’re on the threshold of an exciting new phase of the

work of the Harvard Slavery Remembrance Program opening up an on-the-ground effort in Antigua,” he added.

HAITI
Haiti’s transitional council president, Leslie Voltaire, has announced that the country’s long-awaited general elections are set for around November 15, 2025. Haiti has been without elected representatives since January 2023 and has not held elections since 2016. With armed gangs controlling much of the capital, officials stress that security must be restored before a free and fair vote can take place.

DOMINICA
A French civil security helicopter assisting Dominican authorities have located the wreckage of a missing aircraft about 3 kilometers west of La Plaine. The plane had been missing since Sunday, January 26th and was found in a steep, remote mountainside area. Sadly, no signs of life were detected. Dominica rescue teams are coordinating with French responders to assess the situation, while Martinique’s state services remain on standby to provide reinforcements if needed.

ST. LUCIA
The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has expressed sadness over the passing of Sir Fitzroy Richard “Roy” Augier, a renowned St. Lucian-born historian and Professor Emeritus at The University of the West Indies (UWI). Sir Roy, a founding member of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), passed away in Jamaica on Sunday, just weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday. CARICOM hailed his seminal contributions to Caribbean history, including co-authoring The Making of the West Indies. The organization extended condolences to his family, St. Lucia, UWI, and all who mourn his loss.

BELIZE
The Milwaukee County Zoo has welcomed Filly, a jaguar transferred from The Belize Zoo as part of the Human Jaguar Conflict Program. Filly, estimated to be 6 to 7 years old, arrived safely on January 23 after traveling from Belize to Miami before reaching Milwaukee. She was rescued in 2019 after preying on livestock, a common behavior in older or injured jaguars struggling to survive. The transfer, years in the making, highlights the longstanding conservation partnership between Milwaukee County Zoo and The Belize Zoo, dating back to the 1980s.

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

Celebrating diversity



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Fear Reigns: Trump's Deportation Crackdown Sparks Panic Among Caribbean, Wider Immigrant Communities

BY CT STAFF WRITER

Fear has gripped Caribbean and other immigrant communities across the United States as President Donald Trump's mass deportation policy takes effect, sending shockwaves and driving fear as a sharp peg into the hearts of many. In South Florida, concerned families gathered outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) facility in Miramar, desperate for updates on detained loved ones. On January 26th, ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Miami office confirmed a series of immigration enforcement operations across Broward and Martin counties, resulting in multiple arrests.

A Jamaican woman waiting outside the facility shared her distress with CBS News, revealing that her son had received a deportation notice. "I don't know what's happening inside. He missed one court date, and now we're here trying to sort it out," she said.

Deportation Surge Targets Caribbean Nationals
Since Trump's return to office, thousands of undocumented immigrants have been detained, marking a sharp escalation in deportation efforts. ICE data from November 2024 under the Biden

administration showed that over 90,000 Caribbean nationals were among 1.4 million noncitizens ordered deported but still residing in the U.S. Now, deportations are ramping up, with the highest numbers affecting:
Cuba – 42,000+
Haiti – 32,000+
Dominican Republic – 12,000+
Jamaica – 5,000+

Fears Of ICE Raids In Schools And Communities

Beyond mass deportations, concerns are growing over reports that ICE agents could enter schools to detain undocumented children. However, Miami-Dade and Broward County school officials have vowed to protect students, emphasizing that federal agents will not be granted access without legal authorization.

Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is battling Republican lawmakers over a sweeping immigration bill, the TRUMP Act, which would allocate more than \$500 million in funding to hire new officers, equip and train local agencies, and reimburse counties for leasing detention space to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; harden penalties for undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes as well as rolling back in-state tuition rates for immigrants in the country



Immigrants gathered outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) facility in Miramar last week. (CBS News image)

illegally who are currently enrolled in school. While Republican leaders amended the bill to align with Trump's federal immigration crackdown, DeSantis remains opposed, claiming it weakens state authority over immigration policy.

Haitian Communities In Crisis

In Springfield, Ohio, home to approximately 15,000 Haitians, fear and uncertainty have driven many to churches and religious shops for solace. Pastor Reginald Silencieux, of First Haitian Evangelical Church, led prayers for families fearing deportation, while community leader Viles Dorsainvil described

the mood as "panic." "They see the arrests on TV, and they don't know what's coming next," Dorsainvil said. Many worry about the fate of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which has allowed thousands of Haitians to legally remain in the U.S. One Springfield resident, Brutus Joseph, expressed deep anxiety for his family's future. "If I leave, my children have no future. Haiti is too dangerous. I'm praying Trump changes his mind," he told the AP.

Trump's Immigration Crackdown Intensifies

As part of his toughest immigration stance yet, Trump

has:

- Ordered a nationwide deportation push, with 5,500+ arrests so far.
- Threatened to send undocumented immigrants to Guantanamo Bay.
- Ended humanitarian parole programs for Haitians and other migrants.
- Called on all 50 states to assist with immigration enforcement.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Haiti's transitional council president, Leslie Voltaire, warned that Trump's deportation plans would be "catastrophic" for Haiti, already struggling with poverty, gang violence, and political instability.

With mass deportations accelerating, fear continues to spread among Caribbean and immigrant communities, as many brace for an uncertain future. Use <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/> search to locate your friend/family member if they have been detained by ICE. Search by either A# & country of birth, or person's biographical information.

ICE also has information - including location and contact information - for the detention centers it uses on its website: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities>.



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February 2025



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UWI Professor Calls Garvey Pardon A First Step

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
EDITED BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

While the pardon of Jamaican immigrant and Black nationalist, Marcus Mosiah Garvey by President Joe Biden on January 19th has been celebrated by Jamaicans and Caribbean nationals across the region, Professor Rupert Lewis at the University of the West Indies' Mona campus says the move is simply a first step.

Lewis, who got interested in the teachings of Garvey as a high school student in the late 1960s, insists now that he is pardoned there must be complete exoneration. He described the Biden gesture as "highly significant" and credits Garvey's family and advocates for the overdue pardon.

But noted, "The US President has done what was within his power to do, which is pardon. The US President cannot exonerate, the reversal of a court decision will require legal action from Congress or from the courts. And that is a matter that should be pursued, because pardon assumes that you did the crime. The statement from the White House does indicate that President Biden argued that a miscarriage of justice took place, that the system was unfair and that Garvey was a part of the long road of Civil Rights struggles in the United States."

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness seemed to agree. Following the announcement, he said: "The removal of the unjust stain on Marcus Garvey's name restores the full dignity and honor he has always deserved as a champion of freedom, empowerment, and equality. As Prime Minister, I consider this clemency a first step toward the total exoneration and expungement of this historical injustice. In 2018, our Administration passed The National Heroes and Other Freedom Fighters (Absolution from Criminal Liability in Respect of Specified Acts) Act, clearing the records of Jamaica's National Heroes and freedom fighters who were wrongfully accused and convicted during their struggle for our freedom. This legislative action reflects Jamaica's unwavering commitment to preserving the honor and legacy of those who fought for justice and equality."

An editorial in the Trinidad Express newspaper also agreed. "While the presidential pardon falls short of the complete exoneration of Mr. Garvey — which must remain a goal - we are at one with all those who insist that it is a major step in correcting a monumental act of injustice," it read.

Biden's pardon of Garvey one day before leaving office came 85 years after the Pan African titan's death, and decades of lobbying from civil rights groups and politicians. Garvey, a Jamaican thinker, was pivotal to the Harlem Renaissance in New York of the 1920s. Imprisoned on dubious mail fraud charges in 1925, he was deported to Jamaica two years later after his sentence was commuted

by President Calvin Coolidge.

Garvey died in London in 1940 at age 52. His body was exhumed and returned to Jamaica with significant pomp 24 years later, and interred at National Heroes Park in Kingston. In 1969, he was made Jamaica's first National Hero.

Unlike the 1970s when his message experienced a revival in his homeland, not many members of Gen Z in Jamaica are aware of Garvey's Afrocentric philosophy. For years, Garveyites including Professor Lewis have called for his teachings to be part of the high school curriculum. Lewis has urged Jamaica to integrate Garvey and Garveyism into its educational system. "This is a first step but more importantly for Jamaica, it's not what the Americans must do, but what Jamaica must do, to have Garvey and Garveyism as part of the educational system," he said.

Garvey's sons, Marcus Jr. and Julius, were part of the aggressive lobby for their father's exoneration/pardon. In June 2016, an application was signed and sent to President Barack Obama by Julius Garvey on behalf of the descendants of Marcus Garvey, Professor Charles Ogletree, Professor Justin Hansford, Anthony Pierce, Melissa Chastang, and the law firm, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Obama, the US' first black President, did not grant either an exoneration or pardon.

In February 2023, Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, whose parents are Jamaican, and Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson, introduced legislation in the United States House of Representatives calling for Garvey's exoneration. Three months later, Clarke and 22 of her Congressional colleagues wrote to Biden, calling for Garvey's exoneration.

Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, is chair-elect of the Congressional Black Caucus. Last December, she wrote another letter calling for Garvey's clearance. "Exactly 101 years ago, Mr. Garvey was convicted of mail fraud in a case that was marred by prosecutorial and governmental misconduct. The evidence paints an abundantly clear narrative that the charges against Mr. Garvey were not only fabricated, but also targeted to criminalize, discredit, and silence him as a Civil Rights leader," she wrote.

A month later Biden issued the long lobbied for pardon.

ABOUT GARVEY

Garvey was born in rural St. Ann parish on what is now part of Jamaica's scenic north coast. A printer by profession, he developed a sense of blackness amid the systemic racism that prevailed in Jamaica which was under British rule. He travelled to Central America and the United Kingdom in the early 1900s and formed the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) after returning to Jamaica in 1914. That organization attracted members



Statue of Marcus Garvey in the courtyard of the St. Ann Parish Library in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica. (Marlon Tingling/JIS image)

from the country's black working class, as well as in Latin America and the US, where Garvey moved to in 1916.

He settled in Harlem where an intelligentsia, built around writers and jazz musicians, formed during the 1920s. Garvey believed in Black economic independence and established various enterprises, including the Negro Factories Corporation and the Negro World newspaper. In 1919, he became president of the Black Star Line, a shipping company intended to facilitate African American migration to Africa and promote trade among people of African descent.

Garvey was one of the first Black leaders to meet with the Ku Klux Klan, a controversial move that sparked criticism. In 1922, he held a meeting with Klan leader Edward Young Clarke, believing that both groups had mutual goals of racial separatism. This decision was widely condemned and led to a decline in his support among Black intellectuals and activists.

Prominent Black leaders, including W.E.B. Du Bois and A. Philip Randolph, criticized Garvey's tactics and vision. They considered his plans, such as the Black Star Line and a pan-African empire, unrealistic and accused him of misleading Black communities. Randolph's publication, The Messenger, led a "Garvey Must Go" campaign to expose what they viewed as financial mismanagement and false promises. They believed that his plans for black progress, including the Black Star Line and the establishment of a pan-African empire, were unrealistic and ill-advised; they considered the Universal Negro Improvement Association's grandiose titles and military regalia to be preposterous; and they thought Garvey, with his assumption of a regal posture under the title "Provisional President of Africa," to be little more than a self-aggrandizing buffoon. A. Philip Randolph, who had introduced Garvey to his first American audience on a Harlem Street corner, said Garvey had "succeeded in making the Negro the laughingstock of the world." When he was charged with mail fraud in January 1922, he was one of the leading black figures in the

US.

In 1923, Garvey was convicted of mail fraud related to the sale of Black Star Line stocks. Despite protests from supporters, he served nearly two years in a U.S. federal penitentiary. The Attorney General at the time, John Sargent, received a petition with 70,000 signatures urging for Garvey's release. Sargeant warned President Calvin Coolidge that African Americans were regarding Garvey's imprisonment not as a form of justice against a man who had swindled them but as "an act of oppression of the race in their efforts in the direction of race progress." Eventually, Coolidge agreed to commute the sentence so that it would expire immediately, on November 18, 1927. He stipulated, however, that Garvey should be deported straight after release. On being released, Garvey was taken by train to New Orleans, where around a thousand supporters saw him onto the SS Saramaca on December 3, 1927. The ship then stopped at Cristóbal in Panama, where supporters again greeted him, but where the

authorities refused his request to disembark. He then transferred to the SS Santa Maria, which took him to Kingston, Jamaica. He claimed prejudice from Jewish and Catholic communities played a role in his legal troubles.

Upon returning to Jamaica, Garvey established the People's Political Party in 1929 and briefly served as a city councilor in Kingston. He aimed to implement policies such as land reform, a minimum wage, and the development of educational institutions. Garvey attempted to travel across Central America but found his hopes blocked by the various administrations, who regarded him as disruptive. However, financial difficulties forced him to leave Jamaica for London in 1935.

Garvey continued his advocacy in London but struggled to regain his influence. His anti-socialist stance distanced him from other Black activists, and he faced financial hardship. In 1940, after suffering a stroke, he passed away in relative obscurity.



Jamaicans Among Those Already ICED

Jamaican immigrants are among hundreds already nabbed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) agents around the country as Donald Trump's mass deportation policy kicked into action in nationally.

In Florida, Miami and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Miami field offices reported that Jamaican national was recently arrested in Broward County, Florida by officers. He faces multiple charges, including possession of oxycodone, display of a firearm during a felony offense, and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. In Philadelphia, another national was nabbed due to a marijuana conviction from decades ago. He faces deportation back to Jamaica. Authorities have not yet released the identity of the two Jamaican nationals, and it remains unclear if the individuals have sought legal representation.

Meanwhile, a Jamaican citizen in New York, was also nabbed recently. Jamaican national, Kamaro Denver Haye, was arrested for "promoting a sexual performance by a child less than 17 years of age and possessing sexual performance by child less than 16 years of age." And in Hartford, Connecticut, Sanjay Sivan Walsh was arrested by ICE after being released from Connecticut prison. He served time for sexually assaulting two children and tampering with evidence on Dec. 17th. The 28-year-old man served a 21-month sentence at Enfield's Willard -Cybulski Correctional Institution. Walsh remains in ERO custody pending immigration proceedings. The cases underscore the complexities faced by immigrants in the United States,



ICE-ERO New York arrested Kamaro Denver Haye, a citizen of Jamaica, on Wednesday, Jan. 29th. (ICE image)

particularly those with pending criminal charges.

ICE reported over 969 single-day arrests on Tuesday, January 28th.

Approximately 50 Jamaican deportees are back in their home country on the first deportation flight from the United States since Donald Trump took office on January 20th. Jamaica's Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith confirmed that the flight landed at Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston on January 30th. But she insisted that it is part of the regular monthly immigration arrangements between Jamaica and the U.S. and that deportation flights carrying Jamaicans from the U.S. typically arrive on the last Thursday of each month.

Ironically, the New York Post quoted Evelyn Brown, 80, a Bronx resident from Jamaica who voted for Trump as cheering on ICE saying: "Take the damn bad ones away!" "Get them the hell off the street! Get them the hell out of the street so people don't have to walk in fear. Take the damn bad ones away!"

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Son Of Caribbean Immigrants Now CBS Evening News Co-Anchor

The CBS Evening News entered a new chapter on Monday, January 27th, as Maurice DuBois, the son of Caribbean immigrants, and John Dickerson, the son of CBS News' first female correspondent, debuted as co-anchors of the iconic broadcast. This marks a significant shift for the flagship newscast, which dates back to the earliest days of television.

This change comes following anchor Norah O'Donnell's final sign-off on January 23rd after over five years and nearly 1,300 broadcasts. O'Donnell will now focus on investigative journalism and major interviews for CBS programs like 60 Minutes and CBS Evening News.

The new co-anchored format pairs DuBois and Dickerson with Face the Nation moderator Margaret Brennan, who will contribute coverage of politics and Washington. The revamped show also features chief weathercaster Lonnie Quinn, reflecting the importance of weather in drawing national interest.

DuBois and Dickerson bring a unique dynamic to the broadcast. Both anchors have emphasized their commitment to delivering deeper context and perspective for viewers. DuBois highlighted the importance of helping viewers navigate complex stories. "Our aim is to put all that stuff into context, to let you know at home that, hey, this is what it really means, and it's going to be all right at the end of the day," he said.

Born on Long Island, New York, to parents from Dominica, DuBois attended Port Jefferson High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While



Caribbean American Maurice Dubois, I., and John Dickerson are now the co-anchors of the CBS Evening News. (CBS News image)

in college, he interned at the Public Affairs Office of the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, contributing to the employee newspaper, the Brookhaven Bulletin. DuBois began his career in 1987 as a desk assistant at KING-TV in Seattle, Washington. He then served as an anchor and reporter at WFLD-TV in Chicago, Illinois, and KCRA-TV in Sacramento, California. He spent seven years at WNBC-TV in New York, co-

anchoring 'Today in New York' and hosting 'Four Stories' and 'Mind Over Media.'

Maurice DuBois also worked as a substitute news reader on NBC News's 'Today' and its weekend editions. In September 2004, he joined WCBS-TV in New York as an anchor for the 6 pm newscast, 'CBS 2 News at 6,' with Dana Tyler. Since then, he has co-anchored 'CBS 2 News This Morning' and 'CBS 2 News at Noon' with Cindy Hsu and Mary Calvi.

The newscast now opens with in-depth reporting on major stories, as demonstrated in Monday's debut, which began with coverage of China's artificial intelligence company, DeepSeek. DuBois and Dickerson discussed the story before handing off to Brennan in Washington, who offered additional perspective. The program also includes a quickfire "Round-Up" segment featuring short summaries of key stories and a "HEADLINES" ticker during commercial breaks to keep viewers informed.

New elements like the "Eye on America" segment offer deep dives into impactful stories, while the final segment often highlights inspirational features, such as honoring first responders.

The revamped format, which seeks to prioritize quality over quantity, takes risks by moving away from the traditional single-anchor model. CBS hopes the changes will help the Evening News stand out against competitors like ABC's World News Tonight and NBC's Nightly News.

While the show's ratings consistently trailed its rivals, CBS leaders hope this new format will attract a broader audience and integrate the efforts of CBS News and its local affiliates. The CBS Evening News now aims to bring fresh perspectives and in-depth storytelling to audiences, with DuBois and Dickerson anchoring this bold new direction.

- News.AmericasNow.com
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Know Your Rights As An Undocumented Immigrant

With the new administration giving US deportation agents unchecked authority to step into schools, hospitals, and places of worship to hunt down undocumented immigrants, these are terrifying times for many.

But many immigrants' rights and legal organizations are warning immigrants, especially those in the US undocumented, to know their rights and protections under the constitution. Please note and share with family members and friends.

If immigration agents come to your home, workplace, or approach you in public, it's important to be prepared and know your rights.

- Create a preparedness plan and share it with a trusted person.
- Plan with family and friends on who will manage your case.
- Sync photos/videos to the cloud for secure access.
- Keep fences locked and post a "Know Your Rights" flyer inside your door.

If ICE comes to your door.

- Stay calm and do not open the door.
- If agents enter without consent, state that you do not allow entry or searches.
- Request to see a warrant and ask to contact your lawyer.
- Do not sign any documents or answer questions; exercise your right to remain silent.
- Record the interaction if safe.

If Immigration Agents Approach You in Public

- Carry a preparedness plan with someone you trust.
- Avoid carrying foreign identification or passports.
- Join a local immigrant rights group for support.
- Stay calm, ask officers to identify themselves, and only provide your name.
- Request a warrant and check the accuracy of your details.
- Do not sign documents or provide personal information.
- Record and report the encounter.

If Immigration Agents Come to Your Workplace

Plan with your employer and coworkers in case of an ICE visit.

Keep important documents handy and download emergency

contact apps like Notifica from United We Dream which allows you to connect with a defense network and attorneys who can help.

Avoid carrying foreign IDs. Remain silent and do not lie. Show valid documentation only if necessary.

Refuse searches and signing documents without legal advice. Recording and Reporting Interactions

Ensure audio and video recordings are saved to a cloud.

Collect officer names, badge numbers, and agency details.

Document the date, time, and location of the incident.

Immediate Steps For Families Of Detained Immigrants

If your friend or family member has been detained by ICE, take the following steps:

1. *Get Their A-Number (A#)*
This 9-digit number is assigned upon arrest.

It can be found on previous immigration applications or documents.

If they were arrested at the border and allowed entry, they may already have an A#.

2. *Locate Them in Detention*
Find a detained person using their A# and country of birth or biographical details at <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search> ICE detention center information includes locations and contact details at <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities>

3. *Communication & Visitation*
Once located, contact the detention center to arrange calls or visits.

Ask about phone account setup so they can call you. Call the facility for instructions on sending funds for food or necessities.

4. *Report ICE Raids*
Call the Family Support Hotline: 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693) (English/Spanish).

5. *Gather Immigration & Criminal Documents*
Collect prior immigration applications and receipt notices. Obtain police reports, affidavits, charging, and sentencing documents if applicable.

6. *Check Immigration Court*



Hearing Details

Look up their next hearing using their A#: Immigration Court Portal

Call 1-800-898-7180 for court information.

Will My Loved One Have a Court Hearing?

They may be deported without seeing a judge if they:

- Have an outstanding removal order (missed a court date, lost a case, etc.).
- Were previously deported (including expedited removals at the border).
- Have an aggravated felony conviction under immigration

law.

- Check for prior removal orders: Immigration Court Portal
- If they fear returning to their home country, they should tell ICE officials immediately. They may qualify for an Asylum Interview to request protection.

Who DOES Have a Right to a Hearing?

Most undocumented immigrants and lawful permanent residents can request a hearing before an immigration judge.

- ICE will serve them with a Notice to Appear (NTA), but hearing dates are often incorrect—check the court portal

for updates.

- The first hearing is usually scheduled 2-4 weeks after detention.
- Can My Loved One Be Released on Bond?
- Some detainees in removal proceedings can request a bond hearing.
- Bond is NOT available if they have:
- Outstanding removal orders
- Prior deportations
- Aggravated felony convictions

It's best to find an attorney before requesting a bond hearing, as detainees usually get only one chance to ask for bond.

Finding An Immigration Attorney

The U.S. immigration court does not provide free lawyers.

Free & Low-Cost Legal Help
National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC): (773) 672-6599 (Tuesdays, 11 AM - 2 PM)
Detained Immigrants (collect calls only): (312) 583-9721

Be careful of fraud – only licensed attorneys or accredited representatives can provide legal assistance.



2025 UWI Toronto Benefit Awards Celebrates 16 Years Of Caribbean Education Support

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Toronto Benefit Awards has announced its 2025 honorees, headliner, and event details as it marks 16 years of providing scholarships for Caribbean students. The prestigious event will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Toronto, beginning at 5:30 PM EST.

With the theme 'Bridging the Gap,' the awards celebrate the UWI's enduring commitment to education, community building, and empowering future leaders. "This is a proud night for the Caribbean diaspora," said Dr. Donette Chin-Loy Chang, Co-Patron of the UWI Toronto Benefit Awards. "It does more than just bridge gaps; it strengthens communities and unites us in a shared vision of education and empowerment."

The 2025 honorees include prominent individuals and organizations making exceptional contributions:

• **Luminary Award:** Dr. Jason Drew Harrow (Kardinal Offishall), multi-platinum rapper, producer, and judge on Canada's Got Talent.



Left to Right are the 2025 honorees: Dr. Jason Harrow (Kardinal Offishall), Mr. Mark Beckles, Ms. Patricia DeGuire, Onyx Initiative, Ms. Leslie Woo, Mrs. Berna and Mr. Myron Garron

• **G. Raymond Chang Award:** Myron and Berna Garron, Canadian philanthropists renowned for their support of pediatric health and healthcare institutions.

• **Chancellor's Award:** Onyx Initiative, a non-profit founded by Wayne and Nigela Purboo, focused on expanding opportunities for Black university students in corporate Canada.

• **Vice Chancellor's Awards:**
- Mark Beckles, President & CEO of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada) and Community Investment leader at RBC Royal Bank.

- Patricia DeGuire, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission

and co-founder of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers.

- Leslie Woo, CEO of CivicAction and founder of SheBuildsCities.org.

Headlining the evening is Jamaican singer-songwriter Tessanne Chin, winner of The Voice Season 5 and a 2014 UWI Toronto Benefit Luminary Honoree. Additional performers include Thunder Dome Sounds (featuring Eddie Bullen, Quincy Bullen, Tré-Michael Bullen, and Belinda Brady) and saxophonist Jesse Ryan.

A Legacy Of Support
Over the past 16 years, the UWI Toronto Benefit Awards has provided more than 1,000 scholarships to Caribbean students, with Scotiabank serving as the lead sponsor since its inception. Other sponsors include Sprott Inc., the Hibbert Family Foundation, BDO, and the Raymond Chang Foundation. Ranked among the top universities globally by Times Higher Education, the UWI is the only Caribbean-based university to earn such distinction, excelling in areas such as health, gender equality, and climate action.



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First Haitian-Born U.S. Attorney Lapointe Calls It Quits As Trump Returns

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Haitian-born Markenzy Lapointe, announced his resignation head of Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20th.

Lapointe, the first Haitian-born U.S. Attorney who was raised in Liberty City, Miami, said it had been an honor and privilege to serve as United States Attorney. "I have strived to meet the responsibilities of this position with vigor, determination, commitment, thoughtfulness, and humility," he said in a statement.

Lapointe, who was nominated by President Biden in 2022, went from growing up in a poverty-laden neighborhood that was a hot-bed of violence, to prosecuting high profile cases as the U.S. Attorney.

"Those familiar with my

personal history may recall that I am a native of Haiti, a country whose government struggles to perform basic functions, and where the rule of law has yet to build reliable traction," Lapointe said, "When I immigrated to this country in my teens, I lived in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood, then an urban area with high crime and associated problems. Given where I started, it has been uniquely meaningful to hold a role so central to the Department of Justice's mission of supporting our collective well-being through the exercise of the rule of law."

As the top federal prosecutor, Lapointe oversaw 500 attorneys and support professionals tasked with investigating and prosecuting federal crimes in South Florida and litigating civil matters.

His prosecutors handled



U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Haitian-born Markenzy Lapointe, has called it quits.

Trump's classified documents case and prosecuted Ryan Wesley Roth, who is accused in the attempt on Trump's life at his golf course near West Palm Beach. The district covers nine counties, from Indian River County south

to Monroe County, with branch offices in West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Fort Pierce.

Prior to his appointment, Lapointe was a partner in the Miami office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where he handled commercial, high exposure product liability, professional malpractice, and criminal investigation matters.

He earned his law degree from Florida State University's College of Law, also co-chaired the law firm's Advancement of Diverse Attorneys Committee, promoting the retention and advancement of attorneys from diverse backgrounds.

Lapointe, who was a Marine Gulf War veteran, commenced his legal career with the Florida Supreme Court, where he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Harry Lee Anstead from 1999 to 2001.

He went on to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida from 2002 to 2006, handling federal criminal matters that ranged from narcotics and firearms crimes to bank and mortgage fraud. Lapointe worked as a litigation associate, and later partner, for the Miami office of Boies Schiller Flexner LLP from 2006 to 2017. After that, he joined Pillsbury as a partner.

Throughout his career, Lapointe has maintained a notable pro bono practice. He received the Legal Aid/Put Something Back Pro Bono Award in Child Advocacy and the Daily Business Review's Most Effective Lawyer Award for Pro Bono in Family Law. Lapointe's resignation was effective January 17, 2025. No word on his next career move.



Miami-Dade County Scraps Plans For New Waste-To-Energy Incinerator

Nearly two years of debate and public outcry, Miami-Dade County has decided to abandon plans for building a new waste-to-energy incinerator, according to an internal memo from Mayor Daniella Levine Cava obtained by CBS News Miami.

The memo confirms that the county will instead continue transporting waste via truck and

rail while exploring options for a landfill outside Miami-Dade. "After careful consideration and much analysis, I am recommending that we long haul waste using our contracted capacity while evaluating landfill alternatives," wrote Mayor Cava.

The decision comes as the county grapples with the aftermath of the February

2023 fire that destroyed the Doral incinerator. Despite acknowledging that a new incinerator built to modern standards could meet disposal needs, Mayor Cava noted that the facility's costs and legal challenges would place a heavy burden on taxpayers.

"This decision comes at a time of mounting pressure on

our county's overall budget," she added, emphasizing the need for financially and environmentally responsible solutions.

The proposal for a new incinerator sparked significant controversy, with locations such as Doral, Medley, and the former Opa-locka West Airport being considered. Opposition from local leaders and residents,

including the Trump Organization and the city of Miramar, further complicated the debate.

For now, Miami-Dade County will continue exploring long-term waste management solutions without an incinerator in the immediate future.

- Rewritten from CBS News



Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

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FEATURE



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Talented Artist Looks To Redefine Caribbean Language With New Creole Alphabet

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Master artist and graphic designer, Arthur Francietta, is seeking to create something groundbreaking beyond the canvas. Francietta, who is of French-Caribbean descent, is currently undertaking a project to create a Caribbean writing system called the 'Creole Alphabet,' which focuses on its materiality and medium of expression.

Francietta says the system and grammar of Caribbean languages differ from Latin languages such as French and the process of translation raises specific issues as do Caribbean graphic systems.

He states he will examine the mythology of Caribbean graphic systems through blending lettering and typography by focusing on ritual graphic systems like the Anaforuana from Cuba and the Veves from Haiti.

Francietta said the symbols, inherited from African traditions, provide a rich foundation for understanding how signs can embody beliefs and myths. By integrating these elements, he aims to develop a Caribbean writing system that not only phoneti-



Arthur Francietta, who is of French-Caribbean descent, is currently undertaking a project to create a Caribbean writing system called the 'Creole Alphabet.' (Contributed image)

cizes language but also captures the spiritual and mythological essence of Caribbean culture.

"My writing project, titled 'What if There Has Been a Creole Alphabet?', explores the concept of Martinique having chosen a unique orthography, distinct from the Latin alphabet, to transcribe Creole," Francietta has said. "This essay will examine the historical conditioning of early Creole notations and the viability of a distinct script for

French-based Creoles."

He said the framework of Afrofuturism reflects how much an initiative could affect Martinican culture. Since Miami is the backbone of Caribbean culture, Francietta has said the Magic City is the perfect location for his project.

His research also included visits to the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami and explorations into Afro-Caribbean religious practices such as Palo Monte. Francietta said his project addresses topics like the historical context of early Creole notations and the potential for an autonomous Creole script and focusing on the valorization of Caribbean linguistic and cultural heritage.

"The Afrofuturist angle will enable an exploration of how proactive anticipation of the future can shape our present, detaching from colonial constraints and highlighting the ever-evolving Caribbean identity," he was quoted as saying.

Moreover, the project will be used for examining the craft and graphic identities of Black designers in the United State, in the contest of dominant Western soft power and distancing them-

selves from cultural mimicry.

"Comparing their experiences with my own practice as a Black artist and designer in Martinique provides a valuable perspective on the importance of cultural and artistic self-determination and underscores the significance of distinctive and local graphic expression," he said.

Francietta said that portion of his project will take him to San Francisco, where he plans to collaborate with renowned institutions and professionals, including the Script Encoding Initiative at the University of California at Berkeley and the Letterform Archive.

"A significant aspect of my project in California will be meeting with the Script Encoding Initiative at the University of Berkeley. This collaboration is crucial for deepening my understanding of writing systems and typography through the lens of Unicode," he said.

Francietta said since 2016, his work with SEI has been a cornerstone of his research at École Estienne and ANRT.

"Our discussions will focus on the social, geopolitical, and cultural implications of languages and writing systems world-

wide," the visionary was quoted as saying. "I am particularly interested in how these aspects influence language and cultural policies, especially concerning Martinique."

Francietta's work focusing on hypothetical written language systems earned him a Caribbean Cultural Institute Artist Fellowship from the Pérez Art Museum Miami.

In December, he finished a two-month stint at Bakehouse Art Complex in Wynwood, where he spent time working on a new writing system for Haitian Creole, one based on something other than the Latin script adopted from the country's French colonizers.

Francietta studied fine arts in Fort-de-France and honed his skills in applied art and typographic design at École Estienne in Paris. He completed his training at the Atelier National de Recherche Typographique in the "The Missing Scripts" program, in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley's Department of Linguistics.



Jamaican Immigrant Appointed Vice President For Arts At Knight Foundation

Jamaican-born arts and culture leader Kristina Newman-Scott has been appointed Vice President for Arts at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. In this role, she will oversee the foundation's extensive arts portfolio, which has invested over \$466 million since 2005 to support artists and arts organizations across the U.S.

Newman-Scott, a passionate advocate for the arts, brings more than two decades of

experience in leadership roles within major cultural institutions. She previously served as the Executive Director of the Jerome L. Greene Performance Art Space at WNYC, and has held positions at BRIC, Boston Center for the Arts, and Real Art Ways.

"Kristina's passionate belief in the power of the arts to build and strengthen communities is inspiring," said Maribel Pérez Wadsworth, Knight Foundation president and CEO.



Jamaican-born arts and culture leader Kristina Newman-Scott has been appointed Vice President for Arts at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Newman-Scott was a practicing artist for a decade before moving to the U.S. in 2005. She currently serves on the boards of Americans for the Arts and the Brooklyn Arts Council. Knight Foundation's arts programs support initiatives in cities like Miami, Philadelphia, and Detroit, helping artists leverage technology and deepen community engagement.



Caribbean Entrepreneur Aims To Boost Regional Brands In The U.S. Market

Trinidad & Tobago-born, Asa P. Sealy, a former executive of Carib Brewery USA, has unveiled Trade Trek USA, a pioneering platform designed to help Caribbean brands expand their footprint in the competitive U.S. market. With a unique subscription-based model, the Miami-based company offers Caribbean businesses the tools and strategies needed to achieve sustainable growth and success on an international scale.

Empowering Caribbean Brands For Global Success

Recognizing the challenges Caribbean businesses face when entering larger markets, Trade Trek USA provides a structured, cost-effective approach to overcoming barriers such as regulatory compliance, market entry strategies, and supply chain management. The company's subscription model offers ongoing access to

critical industry insights and operational resources, ensuring brands of all sizes can compete effectively.

"The Caribbean is home to incredible talent and products, but many businesses struggle to scale internationally," said Sealy, Founder of Trade Trek USA. "Our goal is to remove obstacles by providing continuous support, industry knowledge, and market access to help them thrive in the U.S. and beyond."

A Wealth Of Experience And Connections

During his decade-long tenure at Carib Brewery USA, Sealy played an instrumental role in expanding the brand's presence across the U.S. market. His deep industry knowledge and strong relationships with distributors and retailers provide a solid



Asa Sealy, second from right, with the team at Royal Caribbean Cruiselines. (Contributed image)

foundation for Trade Trek USA's success. Sealy envisions Trade Trek USA as a catalyst for Caribbean economic growth, opening doors for businesses to reach new heights. "By offering continuous support through our subscription model, we're not just helping businesses

enter the U.S. market - we're fostering long-term success and sustainability," stated Sealy.

For more information about Trade Trek USA and its services, visit tradetrekusa.com.



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Trump's Day One Orders Prove Project 2025 Has Manifested

For those voters of color who scoffed at warnings that Donald Trump would implement the extreme policies outlined in Project 2025, I say - thank you. Sarcastically, of course. Because here we are. On Day One, as the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism pointed out, Trump wasted no time, issuing a flurry of executive orders that brought the Project 2025 blueprint to life, especially on immigration.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Immigration and Border Security: The Reality Hits

The Day One immigration-focused executive orders represent the most sweeping fulfillment of Project 2025's border security vision. The plan, as laid out on page 135, calls for Homeland Security to return to the "right mission, the right size, and the right budget." Sounds harmless enough - until you realize that the focus is on mandatory detention and expedited deportations.

Trump's orders reflect Project 2025's push to remove any "discretionary language" from Title 8, ensuring immigrants "shall" be detained instead of "may." In other words, say goodbye to due process and humanitarian discretion.

And if that wasn't enough, the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Assistance Program takes the cruelty a step further. The executive order bluntly states: "It is the policy of the United States to ensure that public safety and national security are paramount considerations... and to admit only those refugees who can fully and appropriately assimilate into the United States."

Translation? Refugees

from certain regions - mainly Black and Brown ones - aren't welcome unless they fit a narrow, exclusionary definition of "assimilation." This is precisely what Project 2025 advocated on page 145, where it demanded sweeping reforms to refugee intake, temporary work visas, and asylum rules.

The "Cartel" Label: A Dangerous Precedent

Another clear Project 2025 plan was executive orders designates drug cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Now, no one is arguing that cartels aren't dangerous, but the language used here is straight from Project 2025's playbook - on page 183, to be exact - where it paints Mexico as a "national security disaster" overrun by criminal organizations. The order claims:

"The Cartels' activities threaten the safety of the American people, the security of the United States, and the stability of the international order in the Western Hemisphere."

This rhetoric dangerously frames Mexico as a failed state and lays the groundwork for even harsher border measures. But it doesn't stop at drug trafficking - Trump's team has borrowed the term "cartel" to target a range of institutions, from academia to agriculture. According to Project 2025, so-called "cartels" include everything from university accreditation bodies to international tax agreements - essentially labeling anything they disagree with as a threat to U.S. sovereignty.

What This Means For Immigrants And Communities Of Color

The implications of these policies are stark. Immigrant communities, especially Black and Brown ones, will bear the brunt of the crackdown, that has already begun. Refugee

admissions will plummet, asylum seekers will face insurmountable hurdles, and immigrants already in the U.S. will live under the constant threat of mandatory detention and deportation.

Yet, somehow, too many voters dismissed these warnings. They believed the rhetoric about economic prosperity and national security without recognizing that such policies always come at a

cost - especially for communities of color. The writing was on the wall, but now it's official policy.

The Bottom Line

Day One of Trump's return has shown us exactly what to expect - Project 2025 in full effect. And for those who doubted it could happen; I hope the reality is sinking in now. As my grandmother used to say in her

infinite wisdom: "Too late, too late shall be the cry."

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.



TEEN COURT

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Temptation

Temptation has always been a weakness of mankind, and I daresay, both men and women fall prey to this diabolical frailty that has been the downfall of many.

It comes in all forms, from a strong desire to indulge in something as trite as being tempted to nibble on that chocolate treat, even though you're on a strict diet, to that burning desire of lust.

It's usually a negative thing, and the definition alludes to this: 'The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.'

We've all been there. But we are but mere mortals, lacking strength and resolve, so we



TONY ROBINSON

haven't got what it takes to rebuke temptation when faced with it. Plus, it's been said that the only way to overcome temptation is to yield to it.

'Who sins more, the tempter or the tempted?' When that alluring woman comes along, dressed to seduce, could you say, get thee behind me seductress, or yield to her wiles?

There are so many disturbing news stories about male teachers and young female students getting involved romantically. Whether the allegations are true or not is up to the courts, but what is true is that these things do happen, and with more frequency than you would imagine. As one girl said: "Why do they put us in an all-girl's school then have older boys as teachers?" Men are really just older boys.

Even priests surrounded by nuns in convents succumb

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



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Trump's America Last Agenda Is A Knife In The Back Of Working People

BY BEN JEALOUS

Donald Trump's playbook has always been to campaign like a populist and govern like an oligarch. But it is still shocking just how brutally he went after our country's working people in the first few days – even the first few hours – after he was sworn in last week.

Donald Trump's actions on Day One of his presidency, and each day since then, have laid bare his willingness to undermine the health and wealth of working families. He is determined to pollute our air and water. And for all his tough talk about China, he is rapidly ceding vital economic ground to China as he attempts to shutter the new factories powering our nation with clean energy. A true "America First" agenda would focus on American leadership on the global stage. And it would put the American people first. Instead, he is putting Americans' last by sacrificing our health and our jobs in favor of corporate greed.

In the first minutes of his presidency, President Trump promised to "drill, baby, drill" in his inaugural address.

In the first hours, in a flurry of Day One executive orders, he declared an 'energy emergency' and moved to: claw back unspent money from the Inflation Reduction Act, (IRA), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

(BIL); withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement; overturn protections against offshore drilling for more than 625 million acres of ocean; roll back federal vehicle emission standards for cars and trucks; halt the development of all offshore wind projects; remove vital protections for public lands across Alaska – and, sadly, that was just the beginning.

Making our communities more susceptible to climate-fueled disasters, driving up respiratory and heart disease, increasing our energy bills, and shipping our jobs overseas is the opposite of "America First." And it shows Trump breaking his promises – ON DAY ONE! – to stand up for working-class families.

As you read this, the Trump administration is actively working to boost Americans' household energy costs by promoting the expansion of LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) exports. Those exports go to nations that will pay far more than the domestic market rate for methane gas, driving up prices here at home. And, of course, more methane gas means more fracking, more pollution, and more disaster-prone transportation and refinement of yet another dirty fossil fuel. Not to mention the national security implications of LNG producers and exporters selling this energy resource to adversaries like China, that then can re-sell it to client states and

leverage their status as an LNG supplier. The administration is driving up energy costs and threatening grid reliability – in an age of increasing extreme weather from climate change – with its hostility to the clean energy sources that are cheaper and more resilient than fossil fuels.

It is killing thousands upon thousands of good American jobs with actions like his executive order banning more development of offshore wind energy. So much for the GOP's "all of the above" energy approach. Wind energy now makes up 10% of US electricity generation and offshore wind alone currently employs 120,000 Americans. New offshore wind projects would promise many thousands more. And offshore wind has also helped revitalize domestic supply chains, support growth in American shipping, and bring in billions of dollars in investment.

The administration is killing jobs by attacking the progress and investments spurred by the last administration's Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which have already created more than 400,000 clean energy jobs.

The fossil fuel push will lead to pollution that causes heart attacks, asthma attacks, cancer, and more – and will end up killing many of the very people he pledged to fight for. It also will have an especially deadly impact in the

communities that already suffer disproportionately from pollution. A recent Stanford Medicine study, for instance, found that Black Americans are far more likely to die from air pollution-related causes than other groups. This bears out in a city like Chicago, where the city's West Side, which has more Black and Latino residents than other parts of the city, has up to 32% more nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) air pollution.

One more way this administration looks to hurt both the wallets and bodies of working families is with the rising cost of healthcare that all the illnesses from increased air

and water pollution is sure to bring. In these dark times, it is critical to remember that we are strong enough as a country to keep making progress no matter who is president. As I've seen firsthand from the frontlines of the civil rights and environmental movements, when the American people suffer setbacks, when the hill gets steeper, we do not stop climbing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.



Temptation



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

to temptation, as has been documented countless times over the centuries.

But who is wrong, the young girl, temptress, or the big man, tempted? Revenge is a meal best served cold, it's been said, but temptation is a dish best consumed hot, as it gives off the heat of molten lava as it flows and envelopes everything in its path.

But temptation is a serious thing, not to be trifled with. Still, despite all these warnings, people still yield to its lure. Why is this so? Well, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, and nothing gives men and women more pleasure than weak flesh.

Men are the ones who are weaker and always yielding. It matters not who the tempted is, whether he's lawyer, doctor or Indian chief, he is at the core, a man, and men frequently fall prey to temptation.

That's why during times of war, women were sent to infiltrate and tempt even the bravest, strongest, most resilient generals to extract military secrets. History has proven this on numerous occasions. No matter who the man is; he could be wrapped in the shrouds of Turin and bathed in holy water even as he recites pious prayers daily, he can still yield to temptation.

We often see and hear news stories about male coaches who got involved with their female athletes and are disgraced when discovered. Those are the ones we hear about, as others go undetected.

Is it really fair, prudent, wise or logical to have a male coach surrounded by these young, sometimes willing athletes who

have no qualms about giving him more than a come-hither look? It's like putting a hungry wolf to guard a flock of sheep.

It's like inviting a group of teenagers to look after a pizza and telling them not to eat any. Is it therefore wise to have a male teacher employed to an all-girl's school, surrounded by temptation, and then chastise him for yielding to temptation?

Sure, now you're going to say, "He should know better." But remember, the mind is willing, but the flesh is weak. It takes a man of superhuman strength not to yield to the wiles of temptation.

Some of these young girls are seductive beyond their years, and men being weak, will yield to temptation.

I'm not saying that it's right; it's wrong, but remember, men are men, and nothing is stronger than the power of temptation. Even those of strong moral fiber will yield to temptation when placed in the situation.

"I can resist anything, except temptation," stated Oscar Wilde. Temptation is powerful, and from that biblical Adam and Eve story, where yielding to temptation resulted in their downfall, mankind has grappled with it.

Temptation has had many words written about it, and yet it still seems to overcome so many people. Should we then just yield to it?

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



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Bob Marley's Impact On African Americans Continues At 44th 'Tribute To The Reggae Legends'

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

On his last tours of the United States, Bob Marley made an aggressive play for the African American market. While he was befriended by acts like Johnny Nash and Stevie Wonder, he did not feel the love from 'brothers' and 'sistas' in the United States.

The reggae king's 1979 tour to promote his Survival album was his penultimate trek of that country. On the California leg, he met Makeda "Makeda Dread" Cheatom, a black American activist eager to learn about Jamaican culture.

Shortly after Marley's death in May 1981 at age 36, she started 'Tribute To The Reggae Legends,' a concert in San Diego, her hometown. Its 44th staging is set for February 21-22, 2025, at Worldbeat Cultural Center, located at Balboa Park at 2100 Park Blvd, San Diego in

California.

With February celebrated as Reggae Month in Jamaica and Black History Month in the US, the Texas-born Makeda Dread spoke to Caribbean Today about Marley's relationship with the African American community.

"Black Americans did not immediately embrace Bob Marley because of cultural differences," she said. "At first, they had a problem with dreads and Rasta. There was classism and the mainstream didn't play him right away. Black Americans were more familiar with soul, jazz, R&B, and funk, and reggae was seen as an 'exotic' or 'different' genre."

"Bob's rise to international fame helped bring reggae music to a wider audience, and



Makeda and Bob Marley

his music became a powerful soundtrack for global movements for racial justice and freedom. He was a modern-day griot who

passed the message of liberation through music," she added.

The Marley family has made strategic moves to gain African American fans. His son, Stephen, produced 'Chant Down Babylon,' a well-received 1999 album of digital duets with Marley and neo-soul/hip hop acts such as Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu, Chuck D and The Roots. 'Bob Marley: One Love,' the hit movie released last year, was directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, an African American.

Makeda Dread, who is now 82, believes the current generation of African Americans are in tune with Marley through social media, which gives them more access to his music.

"Today, when I mention his name, young people of all races know him with respect and reverence," she said. "Reggae music continues to be relevant and has played a major role

of liberation in the continued struggle of African people all over the world. His lyrics helped me have self-determination and made me proud to be African."

"Many black Americans appreciate Bob Marley because his music speaks to shared themes of resistance, empowerment, and social justice. His songs about fighting oppression, unity, and freedom resonate with the struggles black Americans face," Makeda added.

Nine Jamaican artists will receive the Bob Marley Peace Award at this year's Tribute To The Reggae Legends. They are Toots Hibbert, Sister Nancy, Johnny Osbourne, Little John, Michael Palmer, Ranking Joe, Triston Palmer, Etana and Warrior King.

Get tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/tribute-to-the-reggae-legends/tickets>.



'One Love' Rules Best Reggae Album Category At Grammys

'Bob Marley: One Love – Music Inspired By the Film,' won the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards held at the Crypto arena in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 2nd.

The award was announced by Queen Sheba during the premiere ceremony at the Peacock Theater. The soundtrack album triumphed over nominees Collie Buddz's Take It Easy, Shenseea's Never Gets Late Here, Vybz Kartel's Party With Me, and The Wailers' Evolution.

Released in February 2024 via Tuff Gong and Island



Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley in the Bob Marley: One Love movie released last year.

Records, the 10-track album features new interpretations

of Marley's legendary songs. Artists such as Daniel Caesar,

Kacey Musgraves, Wizkid, Leon Bridges, Shenseea, Farruko, Jessie Reyez, Mystic Marley, Bloody Civilian, and Skip Marley contributed to the project.

The album, inspired by the One Love biopic about Marley's life, reached No. 10 on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart. The film, directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, stars Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley, Lashana Lynch as Rita Marley, and James Norton as Chris Blackwell.

The Best Reggae Album category honors excellence in

reggae, including roots reggae, dancehall, and ska music. Last year, the award went to Julian Marley and Antaeus for Colors Of Royal. Previous winners include Kabaka Pyramid (The Kalling, 2023), SOJA (Beauty In The Silence, 2022), and Toots & the Maytals (Got To Be Tough, 2021).

With its Grammy win, Bob Marley: One Love – Music Inspired By the Film continues to solidify Marley's enduring impact on reggae and global music culture.



Get Your Film Noticed At The Cross Continental Forum 2025

CaribbeanTales Media Group has announced that acclaimed actor and activist CCH Pounder has joined the Steering Group of its Cross Continental Forum, (CCF), bringing her visionary leadership to this groundbreaking global initiative. "I had been talking about turning my eye towards the Caribbean, then I took on films with that theme or origin story," said Guyanese-born Pounder, known for her roles in Avatar, NCIS: New Orleans, and The Shield. "When CCF asked me to join them, it seemed like a natural fit. We all want to see more of our stories."

Set to take place June 14-18, 2025, in the stunning island of Barbados, the second annual CCF will build on its successful 2024 launch. This innovative event aims to spark co-productions between Black and global majority producers from Canada, the Caribbean, the UK, and Africa. Supported by the Canada Media Fund, (CMF) and Invest Barbados, the

forum is a must-attend event for industry leaders, storytellers, and change-makers. Under the theme 'Decolonizing Co-Production,' the forum will serve as more than a traditional film industry gathering. It's a strategic initiative designed to amplify historically underrepresented voices while fostering international partnerships. "By creating cross-continental co-productions, the forum sets the stage for global collaborations that generate quality content for international distribution," said Frances-Anne Solomon, CEO of CaribbeanTales Media Group.

The 2025 forum will offer attendees a transformative experience, including:

- Co-Production Lab (May 2025) – A four-week online program covering:
- Incentives and rebates across territories
- Legal frameworks for multi-territory co-productions
- Combined funding



Actor CCH Pounder and Producer Paul Garnes at the 2024 Cross Continental Forum. (CCF image)

opportunities from the UK, Canada, Africa, EU, and the Caribbean

- Co-production and distribution strategies
- De-Colonizing Co-Production Forum (June 14-18, 2025) – A five-day in-person event in Barbados with:

- Matchmaking opportunities for producers
- Access to buyers, distributors, and financiers
- Pitch sessions to showcase co-production-ready projects

Who Should Apply?

The Cross Continental

Forum invites Documentary, Feature Film, and TV Series producers from the UK, Canada, Africa, EU, and the Caribbean who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be of Black/Caribbean/African diaspora or BIPOC/Global Majority descent.
- Have successfully produced at least one full-length project domestically and are ready to expand into international co-production.
- Hold 51% ownership in a functional production company.
- Have a project in development with international co-production potential.

How To Apply

Applications close March 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM EST. Submit yours today to be part of this extraordinary movement! For details, contact: applications@ccf2025.com.



Rebel Salute Set For US Debut

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Rebel Salute, Jamaica's leading roots-reggae show, is set to make its first appearance in Florida on April 20th at Miramar Readiness Center. That day is celebrated globally by marijuana advocates as 4/20.

Held annually since January 1994, its Jamaican leg took place January 18th in St. Ann parish, Jamaica. Tony Rebel, founder and promoter of Rebel Salute, said the artist lineup for Miramar will be announced in March.

"If fans in South Florida have never witnessed a Reggae Sunsplash or a Rebel Salute, now is their time. "We plan to go other places, but we are not advanced with those aspects yet. But Florida is 4/20, we are coming to Florida on 4/20," he told Caribbean Today.

This is Rebel Salute's first venture overseas. Unlike other popular South Florida music events like Best Of The Best which showcases mainly dancehall acts, it is big on contemporary and old school roots-reggae acts.

One of the popular aspects of Rebel Salute is the Herb Curb, a line of booths showcasing the economic and health benefits of marijuana. Rebel Salute increases the



Reggae star Anthony B performing at Rebel Salute 2024. (Rebel Salute image/X)

number of major shows in South Florida. In addition to Best Of The Best, other popular annual gigs include Miami Carnival and the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival.

Tony Rebel was among the leaders of a roots-reggae revival that took place in Jamaican dancehall during the 1990s. That movement included his colleagues Garnet Silk, Yasus Afari, Everton Blender and Kulcha Knox, who like him, are all Rastafarians from rural Jamaica.

Rebel Salute was inspired by that surge which saw its

founder making the charts with songs such as Fresh Vegetable, Chatty Chatty, Sweet Jamaica and If Jah. Tony Rebel also had a R&B hit with Weekend Love, a collaboration with Queen Latifah. Tony Rebel credits the show's longevity to moving with the times.

"It shows we are not stagnant; we have mushroomed into something superb. Wherever the pendulum swings there's where we go but with original ideas," he said.



Best Of The Best Music Fest Returns To Miami With Historic Lineup

The highly anticipated Best Of The Best Music Fest is set to make its grand return for its 19th annual edition at Bayfront Park in Downtown Miami this May. The festival, known for delivering world-class Caribbean music experiences, will once again bring together top-tier artists and music lovers from across the globe.

This year's event promises to be historic, featuring reggae legends Buju Banton and Beres Hammond sharing the same stage for the first time in Miami. Adding to the excitement, the festival marks Buju Banton's first outdoor performance in the United States in over 15 years.

Early bird tickets are currently available at www.bestofthebestconcert.com, and organizers are anticipating record-breaking attendance. "Since the announcement of Buju Banton and Beres Hammond, ticket sales have surged as fans lock in their spots for this historic moment," said Ronnie Tomlinson, the festival's Public Relations Manager. "Many are even planning their summer trips around the event." The full artist lineup for the May 25th event is set to be unveiled

in March, further highlighting the vibrancy and diversity of Caribbean music and culture that the festival is known for.

Produced by XO Touring, the Best Of The Best Music Fest has earned widespread acclaim for its commitment to celebrating Caribbean heritage while providing a safe and enjoyable environment for attendees. Over the years, the festival has drawn massive crowds and cemented its status as one of the premier Caribbean music events in North America.

"We are incredibly proud of the festival's success and growth," said Retha Boone-Fye, Program Officer and Director of Miami-Dade County's Black Affairs Advisory Board. "This event is a true celebration of Caribbean music and culture, and we are thrilled to see it flourish year after year."

Tickets for the 19th edition of Best Of The Best Music Fest are available now at bestofthebestconcert.com. Don't miss the chance to witness an unforgettable celebration of Caribbean culture in the heart of Miami.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN MIAMI

Take time this month to honor the heritage and experience the culture. With a variety of historic Black neighborhoods encompassing music, food, art, memories and more, Greater Miami and Miami Beach has endless ways to commemorate the impact the Black community has had both past and present in Miami. Find ways to celebrate this month and all year round at www.MulticulturalMiami.com.



Taken at the Historic Hampton House

MIAMI
GREATER MIAMI & MIAMI BEACH

GREATER MIAMI
CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

Be A Tailgating Legend This Super Bowl

It's almost time for another Super Bowl this February 9th, and whether you're gathering in your backyard or at a friend's home, you know that some of the best times happen in the hours leading up to the game, especially when there are tasty bites in the mix. Helping you elevate your favorite tailgating recipes and cook up your best memories of the football season is Michael Duarte, the digital creator and food influencer behind FoodWithBearHands and a MVP on the Bear Mountain BBQ team. Both recipes he's sharing incorporate Bear Mountain BBQ's 100% natural hardwood pellets, which work with any grill or smoker to craft a real smoke flavor that will amplify any meal.

The first recipe is for Cheesesteak Jalapeño Poppers, and Duarte warns this legendary game day recipe is one your friends and family will remember you for.

Cheesesteak Jalapeño Poppers



Prep Time: 30 Minutes
Cook Time: 1 Hour
Servings: 10

Ingredients:

- 10 jalapeños
- 1 pound ribeye, sliced thin
- 10 slices of bacon

- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 yellow onion, chopped
- 4 slices of mozzarella
- 4 slices of provolone
- 1 ounce Worcestershire sauce
- 3 tablespoons BBQ rub
- Salt and pepper
- Bear Mountain BBQ Chophouse Blend Pellets

Instructions:

1. Slice your jalapeños lengthwise and remove the seeds, set aside.
2. Sauté onion and bell peppers in a skillet on medium heat, adding 1 tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce.
3. When caramelized, remove the veggies and add in the thinly sliced ribeye. Pro tip: To get thinner slices, freeze ribeye for 1 hour to firm.
4. Sear on medium to high heat and add the veggies back in, plus 4 slices of mozzarella and 4 slices of provolone until the cheese is melted.
5. Add mixture to your jalapeño slices, wrap with bacon and top with your favorite BBQ rub.
6. Place on wire rack and into your smoker at 375 degrees F for 1 hour. Remove when your bacon is nice and crispy and enjoy your game day appetizer!

For the ultimate snack to go along with a cold beer, try this recipe for Sweet & Spicy Bacon Wrapped Hot Pockets.

Sweet & Spicy Bacon Wrapped Hot Pockets

Prep Time: 15 Minutes
Cook Time: 45 Minutes
Servings: 6-8

Ingredients:

- 1 box of Pepperoni Pizza Hot



Pockets

- 1 pack of bacon
- Honey
- 1 jalapeño – sliced
- Derek Wolf | Big Bad BBQ Ale - Spiceology
- Bear Mountain BBQ Chef's Choice Blend Pellets

Instructions:

1. Preheat your grill to 350 degrees F with Bear Mountain BBQ Chef's Choice pellets.
2. Wrap each frozen Hot Pocket in a slice of thin bacon and place on a wire rack.
3. Drizzle honey over the Hot Pockets and place jalapeño slices on top.
4. Dust your Hot Pockets with Derek Wolf | Big Bad BBQ Ale - Spiceology or other BBQ rub.
5. Smoke for 45 minutes or until bacon is nice and crispy.
6. When done, top with more honey and enjoy!

For elevated game time grub, put Bear Mountain BBQ on your team roster this season. Both blends Duarte used are available exclusively at Walmart. To learn more about what real smoke flavor can do for your grilling game, and for more game day recipes, from chili to pizza, visit bearmountainbbq.com.

- StatePoint



South Florida's Most Impeccable Restaurants: Top Spots With Perfect Health Inspections

If you're planning to dine out this Valentine's Day, why not choose a restaurant that has achieved the highest standards of food safety? Several restaurants in Miami-Dade and Broward counties have recently ached their health inspections, receiving zero violations from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation during their unannounced routine checks.

Maintaining impeccable food safety standards is crucial for public health, and these establishments have demonstrated their commitment to excellence, offering diners a worry-free experience. Whether you're craving seafood, international cuisine, or classic American fare, these top-rated spots are ready to serve you with confidence.

Broward County Restaurants with Perfect Inspections

Among the standout locations in Broward County are:

- Jardin – Pompano Beach
- The Italian Corner – Deerfield Beach
- Caribbean Grill – Coconut Creek
- Casa Maya Grill – Deerfield Beach
- Sushi Song Gaysha – Wilton Manors
- Churroworld – Pembroke Pines
- CulinArt Group – Fort Lauderdale

Popular fast-food chains including Wendy's, KFC, and Chick-fil-A also passed inspections flawlessly.

Miami-Dade County Restaurants with Zero Violations

For those in Miami-Dade, top-performing establishments include:

- Five Guys Burgers and Fries – Miami
- Brisas Bistro Restaurant – Miami
- Pura Vida Sole Mia
- Battle Rig BBQ
- Vegan Temple
- Taco Bell – Hialeah

Several food trucks, such as Grace Food Truck and Lobster Boys Rolls, also received flawless ratings.

These restaurants' dedication to maintaining spotless kitchens and adhering to strict safety protocols makes them excellent choices for your next dining experience. Whether you're celebrating Valentine's Day or simply enjoying a meal out, these venues ensure both delicious cuisine and top-tier food safety.

For the full list of restaurants with zero health violations, visit the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation website.



The Best Chocolates To Gift This Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day just around the corner, there's no better way to express love than with a luxurious box of chocolates. Whether your special someone adores classic American confections or rich, dark ganaches, finding the perfect chocolate gift can feel overwhelming.

Fortunately, The New York Times has curated a list of the best chocolate options to make

your choice easier. Their top pick? The 16-piece Recchiuti Confections Black Box, known for its exceptional craftsmanship, sophisticated flavors, and elegant packaging - ideal for an unforgettable Valentine's gift.

For those with diverse tastes, other standout selections include flavor-packed bonbons, single-origin truffles, and vegan-friendly delights.

Top Chocolate Picks for

Valentine's Day:

- Best All-Around: Recchiuti Confections Black Box
- American Classic: Valerie Confections Baby Grand Assortment
- Bold Flavors: Stick With Me Sweets Bonbons
- Dessert-Inspired:



Recchiuti Confections was voted the best.

- Melissa Coppel Bonbons
- For Connoisseurs: Dandelion Chocolate Single-Origin Truffles
- Vegan Favorites: Chocolat Moderne Vegan Victory, La Maison du Chocolat Fruit Naturally Gift Box

No matter your choice, these expertly selected chocolates are sure to sweeten your Valentine's celebration.



Can We Talk?

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.
If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and...dress your company well in...

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Jamaican Immigrant Champions Stroke Awareness Through Smiley's Voice Foundation

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Since losing her son to a stroke in 2009, Jamaican immigrant Carol Hylton has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the dangers of neurovascular disease. That year, she started Smiley's Voice Foundation, which helps to raise funds for hospitals in Jamaica.

Last November, the organization's annual Black, Red & White Fundraising Gala took place at the Doubletree By Hilton hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A portion of its proceeds were donated to the Stroke Unit at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica.

Hylton, a registered nurse from Portland parish in eastern Jamaica, attended the event with her husband Michael, and daughters Mikara and Marissa. She said things went according to plan.

"I considered the event successful because in keeping with our mission, our attendees were able to hear the stroke awareness presentation from our keynote speaker, Dr. Norman Ajiboye who is a talented neurointerventional surgeon and medical director of the stroke programs at Memorial Hospital Miramar and Memorial Hospital Pembroke in South Florida," she told Caribbean Today

recently. "We had 210 attendees, which included Dr. Rosemarie Lewis, who was a major player in contacting the appropriate Jamaican officials such as (Jamaica's) minister of health Dr. Christopher Tufton, to facilitate the first mission trip to the University Hospital of the West Indies by Dr. Ajiboye, and Dr. Brandon Davis, neurointerventional surgeon from the Memorial Neuroscience Institute and other members of the Memorial Healthcare System."

"They partnered with Dr. Kevin Wade, consultant neurointerventional surgeon and other members of the UHWI neurosurgical team to perform six urgent surgeries with successful outcomes," she added."

Wade, who also attended the function, told CT that the number of stroke victims in Jamaica is high, with a rising trend among young people. While his unit benefits from government and private support, similar backing from overseas is critical.

"The partnership with the Memorial Health team, led by



Carol Hylton, founder of the Smiley Voice Foundation, (center at podium), speaking at the organization's Red, Black & White Fundraising Gala at the Doubletree By Hilton hotel in Fort Lauderdale last November. She is flanked by her husband Michael Hylton, daughters Mikara Bell and Marissa Hylton, Dr. Barbara Barrett, Dennis Hinds, Dr. Kevin Wade of the University Hospital of the West Indies' stroke unit and Dr. Michael R. Dobbs, chair of Clinical Neurosciences Department at Florida Atlantic University. (Contributed image)

Dr. Norman Ajiboye and Dr. Brandon Davis, brings a wealth of experience and know-how to bolster our local services," said Dr. Wade. "This partnership provides a collaborative framework for the exchange of ideas, which serves to improve the overall care of our patients."

Hylton's son, Michael "DJ Smiley" Hylton, died from a stroke at age 29. He was diagnosed at birth with a congenital heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot and had corrective surgery when he was 2 1/2 years old.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 795,000 people suffer strokes in the United States every year.



Florida Leads With Most 'Obamacare' Enrollment

Florida has once again led the nation in enrollment for Obamacare, with 4,633,650 residents signing up for insurance coverage through the Marketplace by the end of 2024, according to data released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Nationally, a record-breaking 23.6 million people enrolled for 2025 coverage,

including 3.2 million new consumers, CMS reported. Florida's strong participation underscores the state's growing reliance on Marketplace plans, supported by four insurance companies and 12 health maintenance organizations (HMOs) listed on the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation website.

HMO plans remain regional,

requiring residents to live within the areas authorized for those managed care plans. Despite this limitation, Florida continues to lead the way in providing access to health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, ensuring millions of residents receive essential healthcare services.



Trump Administration Halts CDC Collaboration With WHO

The Trump White House on January 27th ordered the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) to immediately cease all communications with the World Health Organization, (WHO). This directive, reported by the Associated Press, is part of the administration's broader push to withdraw the United States from the global health body.

John Nkengasong, a senior CDC official, issued a memo to agency leaders directing all staff involved in collaborations with WHO - including technical working groups, advisory boards, and cooperative agreements—to halt their work immediately. The

memo also prohibits CDC staff from visiting WHO offices. The sudden order has alarmed public health experts, who warn it will hinder efforts to combat global health threats such as the Marburg virus and mpox outbreaks in Africa, as well as ongoing monitoring of bird flu outbreaks among U.S. livestock.

This move comes one week after then-President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw the U.S. from the WHO, citing the organization's alleged mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and its "failure to implement necessary reforms."

In response, WHO issued a

statement expressing regret over the decision, highlighting its decades-long partnership with the U.S. in combating global health crises such as smallpox and polio. WHO emphasized the importance of the United States' leadership and contributions in shaping its mission.

Critics argue that halting CDC-WHO collaboration undermines international public health efforts, particularly at a time when global coordination is critical to addressing health emergencies.

- Rewritten from AP News



CDC Advises Faster Flu Testing To Identify Potential Bird Flu Cases

The CDC has issued guidance urging hospitals and labs to conduct faster flu subtype testing, particularly for patients in intensive care, to identify potential cases of bird flu amid rising flu diagnoses nationwide.

While most facilities cannot directly test for bird flu (influenza A(H5)), identifying unexplained subtypes of influenza A can help flag possible cases. "If a patient

tests positive for influenza A but negative for H1 or H3 subtypes, further investigation is needed," explained Dr. Vincent Hsu, an infectious disease expert at AdventHealth.

The CDC's advisory follows 66 reported U.S. bird flu cases over the past year, including one fatality in Louisiana. Though no bird flu cases have been reported in Florida so far, flu-related emergency department visits

in the state have risen to 6%, a notable increase from previous years.

Residents are advised to avoid contact with wild animals, dead birds, and raw milk while maintaining standard flu precautions, such as handwashing and staying home when symptomatic.



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Since the Florida Lottery was established in 1988, it's been our mission to maximize contributions to public education, and provide life-changing opportunities to players and students throughout the State of Florida.

Our unwavering commitment to education continues to move forward with tremendous success. To date, we have contributed more than \$47 billion to K-12 schools, state colleges and universities, as well as to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Bright Futures was created in 1997 by the Florida Legislature, and it assists students pursuing their dreams of a postsecondary education. In total, the Florida Lottery has contributed more than \$9 billion to the program, helping nearly one million Floridians attend college on a Bright Futures Scholarship.

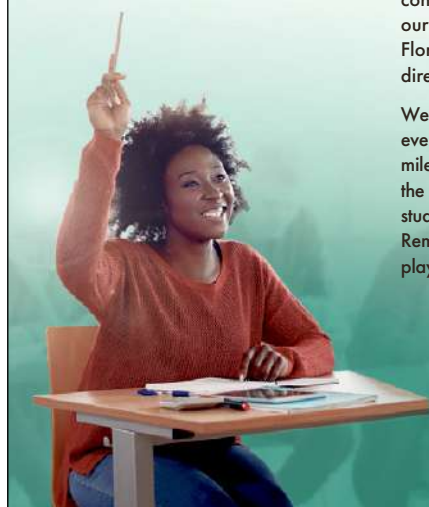
As one of the most efficient lotteries in the country, we're proud of the fact that we've given more than \$1 billion annually to public education for the last 22 consecutive years. We're looking forward to continuing that tradition alongside our players, as a portion of every Florida Lottery game purchase goes directly to that goal.

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Watch now at publix.com/blackhistorymonth.

Certified Master Chef Daryl Shular
Assistant Sous Cameron Byron



TRAVEL NEWS



www.caribeantoday.com

The Top 10 Caribbean Beaches



The Caribbean's number 1 beach according to USA Today is Bambarra Beach – Turks and Caicos Islands. (visittci.com image)

The Caribbean's breathtaking beaches continue to captivate travellers worldwide. From serene, secluded escapes to vibrant and lively shores, these top 10 beaches—ranked in USA Today's 2024 Readers' Choice Awards—represent the very best of the region.

1. Bambarra Beach – Turks and Caicos Islands
Located on Middle Caicos, this peaceful, unspoiled beach offers endless stretches of calm, clear waters and plenty of space for relaxation. While it lacks resort-style amenities, its serene beauty and inviting warmth make it

unforgettable.

2. Eagle Beach – Aruba
Known for its soft white sand and iconic Fofoti trees, Eagle Beach is Aruba's widest beach and a nesting site for sea turtles. Its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere make it a favourite for locals and visitors alike.

3. Paradise Beach – Carriacou, Grenada
True to its name, Paradise Beach offers pristine white sand, turquoise waters, and shady almond and Seagrape trees. This popular spot also features local restaurants, bars, and a souvenir shop.

4. Trunk Bay Beach – St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
Situating within Virgin Islands National Park, Trunk Bay Beach is renowned for its pearly white sand, aquamarine waters, and an underwater snorkelling trail showcasing vibrant marine life.

5. Arashi Beach – Aruba
With its crystal-clear waters and gentle currents, Arashi Beach is perfect for snorkelling and family outings. It offers beach huts, a bar, and facilities like showers and lounge chairs for a comfortable day by the sea.

6. Meads Bay Beach – Anguilla
Meads Bay Beach, located on Anguilla's northwest shore, is a serene stretch of sand known for its unspoiled beauty, calm waters, and nearby restaurants and bars.

7. Honeymoon Beach – St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
This secluded gem within Virgin Islands National Park features soft sand, shallow waters, and coral reefs for snorkelling. The shade from palm and Seagrape trees makes it perfect for a relaxing day.

8. Shoal Bay Beach – Anguilla
Regularly listed among the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches, Shoal Bay Beach draws visitors with its crystal-

clear waters, powdery sand, and opportunities for snorkelling and water sports.

9. Great Bay Beach – Philipsburg, St. Martin
Offering a lively mix of beachside fun and boardwalk charm, Great Bay Beach features water sports, shopping, dining, and buzzing beach bars along its shoreline.

10. Grace Bay Beach – Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

This iconic beach is famed for its tranquil turquoise waters, soft sand, and serene vibe. With a barrier reef protecting it from cruise ship traffic, Grace Bay Beach is perfect for peaceful relaxation.

Whether you're seeking adventure, tranquillity, or cultural charm, these top Caribbean beaches promise unforgettable experiences.



Calling All Caribbean Artists: Royal Caribbean's Artist Discovery Program Returns

Caribbean artists now have a new opportunity to showcase their talent to a global audience as Royal Caribbean announces the return of its Artist Discovery Program. This exciting initiative invites artists from across the region to submit their work for the chance to feature on Star of the Seas, Royal Caribbean's latest addition to its fleet, set to debut in Port Canaveral, (Orlando, Florida, in August 2025.

With a mission to bring the heart of the Caribbean - its people, beauty, and culture—to life, the program seeks bold and visionary artists to create large-scale murals for the ship's most prominent spaces, including the Royal Promenade and embarkation areas. Selected artists will have their work celebrated by vacationers from around the world for years to come.

"Our goal is to connect guests to the enduring beauty and creativity of the Caribbean," said Jay Schneider, Chief Product Innovation Officer at Royal Caribbean International. "Last year's program showcased over 140 artists from 25 Caribbean countries, and we're eager to continue celebrating the region's unique stories and vibrant culture."

How To Apply

Submissions are open now through February 15th, and participating artists will receive grants ranging from \$20,000 to over \$100,000 to bring their vision to life.

Interested artists must submit:

- Five samples of original work.
- A brief artist statement explaining their inspiration and approach.
- A copy of their CV or resume.



This year's selected artists will join the 2023 inaugural cohort that created iconic murals that are featured throughout Icon of the Seas. The distinguished artists in-residence include Jason Hospedales in Trinidad & Tobago. (RCCL image)

- Artists selected for the program will join Royal Caribbean's team in Turku, Finland, where Star of the Seas is under construction, to bring their concepts to reality.

Past Success Stories

The inaugural Artist Discovery Program featured iconic murals by distinguished Caribbean artists such as Angelika Wallace-Whitfield (The Bahamas), Jason Hospedales (Trinidad & Tobago), and Philippe Dodard (Haiti) aboard Icon of the Seas. These works have already been admired by millions of guests, celebrating the region's cultural essence.

About Star of the Seas

As the next evolution of vacation experiences, Star of the Seas will offer unforgettable 7-night Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries. Each voyage will include a stop at Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay, along with destinations like St. Kitts & Nevis, Cozumel, Mexico, and St. Maarten. For artists eager to showcase their work and amplify the spirit of the Caribbean, this program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Visit Royal Caribbean's website for submission details and additional information.



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Florida Churches And Non-Profits Leading Efforts To Preserve Traditional Black History

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

As the nation celebrates Black History Month amid an end to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, (DEI), programs by the federal government, students in Florida public schools will likely not learn about the ordeals and struggles Blacks endured while enslaved.

This after Florida adopted an African American studies course for public schools in 2022, which limits racism and discrimination students can learn about in Black history. But a coalition of faith leaders and education advocates have opened their doors for a broader focus on Black History in America.

Florida churches and non-profit organizations are teaching students about their ancestors, slavery, the torture and murders of Blacks in rural Rosewood, and the Civil Rights Movement, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks were thrust into the spotlight for Blacks fight for equality.

With the limited version of African-American history in the classrooms, they said Black students are being deprived of learning the most important events and people that were part of history, including the Rosewood massacre, a racially motivated massacre of Black people and the destruction of a black town in 1923 in Levy County, Florida. At least six black people were killed but eyewitnesses said the death toll reached 150.

Another massacre in Black history was the Tulsa, Oklahoma race or Black Wall Street mass slaughter in 1921 when white supremacists, some appointed as deputies and armed by city government, destroyed homes and businesses belonging to wealthy Black folks. The Oklahoma Bureau of Vital Statistics officially recorded 300 deaths, most of them Blacks, and 800 people were seriously wounded in the deadly attacks. Students in public schools will also likely not learn about Black Lives Matter, a social movement that highlights racism, discrimination and inequality experienced by Blacks including police brutality and racially motivated violence against African Americans.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Education banned such events and movements from the history books under the Stop W.O.K.E. Act, the governor's initiative to ease guilt for people whose ancestors were responsible for harming and killing Blacks.

The Advanced Placement College Board submitted a proposed curriculum in 2022 for African American studies, including Queer theory, critical

race theory, affirmative action and the Black Lives Matter movement.

However, DeSantis and the Florida Department of Education rejected it, saying it doesn't meet the state's standards for a Black history course, which is required by an existing state law created in 1994.

Black students also will not find stories about the KKK and other extreme white supremacy groups hurling racial epithets and threats to King as he and groups of Blacks marched for equality.

But instead students are being taught that Blacks benefited from slavery with job skills, an affront to the Black community and angering Black leaders who said DeSantis and other Republicans have no right to rewrite African-American history with inaccuracies. "It's a travesty how Black history is being played out in the schools," said Brett Mason, a community activist. "Students are not learning the truth and that upsets the Black community. It's like the most important events and figures in Black history don't exist."

School districts in Florida are forced to comply with the state's mandate to teach about the experience of enslavement, abolition and vital contributions of African Americans to build and strengthen American society. A common complaint from students and parents is that the instruction seems limited to heroic figures such as King and Parks, and rarely extends beyond each February's Black History Month.

As such, a coalition of churches throughout Florida created 'Faith In Florida,' an online toolkits with books and videos and other resources about Black history in an effort to push back on the Republican-led attacks on education.

The toolkits include dozens of books like Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me" and Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow," documentaries like Ava DuVernay's "13th," and CBS News "Trayvon Martin: 10 years Later." The 17-year-old Martin, a Miami Gardens resident, was shot and killed by self-appointed community watchdog George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida in 2012. Martin was Black and Zimmerman is white. Zimmerman was acquitted of murder charges in a case that sparked racial tension nationwide and a debate over Florida's controversial Stand Your Ground law.

About 290 Florida churches are part of Faith in Florida, including Miami's New Generation Missionary Baptist Church and New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, which teaches Black History year around in 41 counties.



Rev. Alphonso Jackson, executive pastor at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Miami

Rev. Alphonso Jackson, executive pastor at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Miami, said it was a "no brainer" to join the Faith in Florida movement in the wake of attacks on education. The Miami church, whose congregation is majority Black, was founded in 1938.

He said Faith in Florida's toolkit was the perfect resource to help guide the church's lessons. Dozens of people of all ages piled into the church's packed fellowship room for its first Black history lesson in November.

"There was excitement in the room," he said. "You saw it on people's faces. They were looking forward to the lesson. You definitely felt that as soon as you walked in."

Dr. Marvin Dunn, professor emeritus of psychology at Florida International University and decades long racial and social justice activist, launched his Teach the Truth tour in 2023, after Florida rejected the

Advanced Placement College Board proposal for a Black history course.

Dunn, 84, takes busloads of students to visit chilling sites where Blacks were brutally attacked and murdered including the Rosewood massacre.

The three stop tour also included visits to Live Oak, Florida where a young Black boy was allegedly forced to jump in the Suwannee River and drowned after he wrote a love letter to a White girl, and Ocoee, Florida where in 1920

land and make the property accessible to Blacks to visit the massacre site.

Dunn said he's the only Black person to own land in Rosewood, which he purchased through his non-profit Miami Center for Racial Justice. He focuses primarily on the identification of effective instructional and behavioral strategies and programs for students at risk and in race relations.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Oliver Gilbert was offering high school students in his district an opportunity to visit Black history landmarks in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia during Spring break this year.

The program, which had a January 24th deadline, is called the U.S. Civil Rights Trail visiting sites like the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the National Civil Rights Museum, connecting with the stories of a movement that shaped the nation's future.

"You are talking about the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Civil Rights Museum," he said in a press statement. "You are talking about all these places where history was made. I want to show them where history was made."

The trip is scheduled to run from March 23 to March 29, offering a week of immersive learning and inspiration.

To join and learn more about Faith in Florida and its Black History program, log on to faithinflorida.org/.



Miami-Dade County Commissioner Oliver Gilbert

an uprising erupted over Blacks voting in an election and July Perry, a key figure in the riot, was brutally attacked inside his home by White men.

Dunn said his book entitled Florida through Black Eyes, is currently banned in Florida schools under the Stop W.O.K.E. act.

In his book, Dunn purchased the site of the Rosewood massacre for \$30,000. He said he wanted to preserve the vacant



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West Indies Urged To Build On Historic Test Wins

Outgoing West Indies Test head coach Andre Coley has called on his players to build on their historic Test victory in Pakistan and develop a sustained winning mentality.

West Indies recently defeated Pakistan by 120 runs in the second Test at Multan Cricket Stadium, securing their first Test victory in Pakistan since 1990. The triumph follows another landmark win under Coley's leadership when the West Indies shocked Australia at the Gabba last year, claiming their first Test victory there in 27 years.

With Daren Sammy set to take over as head coach in April, Coley stressed the importance of consistency and continuous learning. "Every match we play, we set out to win. It's crucial that we don't always find ourselves playing catch-up in away series," he said.

Coley noted that over the last 12 to 18 months, West Indies have gained valuable experience



Windies team members celebrate the historic win. (AFP image)

in foreign conditions, something he believes should serve them well in future tours and even at home. "Players must take these lessons, log them for future reference, and build on them," Coley explained. "Sometimes, conditions at home can resemble those abroad, depending on how pitches are prepared. We need to develop the ability to adapt and be effective in all conditions."

Reflecting on the Pakistan series, Coley praised the team's resilience and ability to adjust after losing the first Test by 127 runs. "It took a massive effort to turn things around in tough

conditions. The second Test win showed improvement and growth as the series progressed," he said.

The head coach also highlighted the unexpected spin-friendly surfaces the team encountered in Pakistan. "We anticipated spin before arriving, but the pitches turned

from day one. Some surfaces resembled a typical third-day wicket from the start, testing our skills, mental strength, and adaptability," he noted. As he prepares to step down, Coley expressed confidence in the team's potential to achieve sustained success, urging them to stay hungry and committed

to learning. "We can't rely on occasional performances. Consistency is key, and we need to maintain that mindset," he emphasized.

- Rewritten from CMC



Warrican Breaks Into ICC Top 25 Test Bowlers After Stellar Pakistan Series

West Indies left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican has surged into the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings, climbing 16 spots to 25th following his match-winning nine-wicket haul in the second Test against Pakistan in Multan.

The 32-year-old finished the two-match series with 19 wickets, including a 10-wicket haul in the first Test, which Pakistan won by 127 runs. His performance helped West Indies secure a 120-run victory in the second Test, their first Test win in Pakistan since 1990.

This marks Warrican's highest-ever ranking, making him the third-highest ranked West Indian bowler, behind Jayden Seales (12th) and Kemar Roach (18th). He surpassed Alzarri Joseph (34th) and Jason Holder (36th) in the latest rankings.

Fellow spinner Gudakesh



West Indies left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican has surged into the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings. (CMC image)

Motie also made gains, rising six spots to 58th after taking five wickets in the second Test, while Shamar Joseph (54th) remains among the top 100 Test bowlers.

In the Test batting rankings, West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite jumped eight places to 44th, making him the only

West Indian in the top 50. His second-innings 52 in the second Test helped break a run of low scores and secure West Indies' first Test victory in Pakistan in over 30 years.

- Rewritten from CMC



T&T Football Legend Passes Away At 76

Trinidad & Tobago football icon Leroy De Leon has passed away at 76, leaving the nation's football community in mourning. The legendary midfielder, considered one of T&T's greatest players, would have celebrated his birthday on February 7.

Prime Minister Keith Rowley paid tribute, calling De Leon "one of the best" to represent the country, adding

that his legacy will be cherished by his hometown of Mahaica and Point Fortin. The Trinidad & Tobago Football Association (TTFA) described him as a trailblazer whose skill and passion helped elevate Caribbean football.

A St. Benedict's College graduate, De Leon was named the greatest SSFL player of the league's first 50 years in 2016.

He had a stellar career in the North American Soccer League (NASL), playing for teams like the New York Generals, Washington Darts, and Seattle Sounders. He earned 17 caps for T&T's national team and was inducted into the T&T Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

- Rewritten from CMC



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Dominican Olympian Named Destination And National Bank Brand Ambassador

Dominica's Olympic gold medalist and World Indoor triple jump champion, Thea Lafond-Gadson, has been appointed as both the Dominican Destination Brand Ambassador and the Brand Ambassador for the National Bank of Dominica, (NBD). These prestigious honors recognize her historic achievements and unwavering commitment to inspiring her fellow Dominicans.

The government of Dominica named Lafond-Gadson as the Destination Brand Ambassador, acknowledging her as a symbol of excellence and national pride. Her groundbreaking accomplishments on the global stage – including as Dominica's first-ever athletics world title winner at the 2024 World Indoor Championships in Glasgow, where she achieved a personal best of 15.02-m, and her historic gold medal at the Paris Olympic Games – have cemented her as the ideal representative for the Caribbean's Nature Island.

"Thea's success is a reflection of Dominica's resilience and greatness," stated a government release. "With her leading the way, we are amplifying Dominica's global presence and showcasing the island's unparalleled natural beauty and culture to the world."



Dominica's Olympic gold medalist and World Indoor triple jump champion, Thea Lafond-Gadson, has been appointed as both the Dominican Destination Brand Ambassador and the Brand Ambassador for the National Bank of Dominica, (NBD). (Contributed image)

In her new role, Lafond-Gadson will promote Dominica as a premier sustainable tourism destination, highlighting its lush landscapes, rich heritage, and vibrant communities.

Adding to her accolades, on January 23rd, the National Bank of Dominica, (NBD) officially welcomed Lafond-Gadson as its Brand Ambassador during a special signing ceremony. This partnership underscores the values of excellence, determination, and perseverance – qualities that align with NBD's mission to empower the people of Dominica.

As NBD's Brand Ambassador, Lafond-Gadson

will focus on initiatives aimed at engaging young people, promoting financial literacy, and inspiring individuals to pursue their personal and professional goals. "It's an honor to represent both my country and the National Bank of Dominica," said Lafond-Gadson. "I hope to inspire others to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals."

Her dual appointments reaffirm Lafond-Gadson's status as a true national icon, elevating Dominica's global reputation while empowering the next generation to strive for greatness.



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce Launches Hair Care Line

Three-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has introduced her highly anticipated hair care line, AFIMI: The Essence of Jamaica, with an exclusive launch weekend at VP Records in New York on February 2nd. As the legendary Jamaican sprinter prepares for life beyond athletics, she is channelling her passion and winning mindset into the beauty industry, cementing her role as an entrepreneur.

Inspired by Fraser-Pryce's Jamaican heritage, the AFIMI line features all-natural botanical ingredients sourced from the Caribbean and caters to a variety of hair types. The name "AFIMI," rooted in Jamaican culture, represents individuality, confidence, and resilience – qualities Fraser-Pryce has demonstrated both on and off the track.

"AFIMI is deeply personal," Fraser-Pryce said. "It represents my roots, my identity, and the resilience that defines me. I'm excited to share this piece of Jamaica with the world and help others feel confident in their own beauty journey."

A Celebration Of Excellence

The launch weekend featured a series of engaging events, including:

The Genesis Lab – A creative



Three-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has introduced her highly anticipated hair care line, AFIMI.

space to explore the AFIMI brand. Kingston Café presented by Grace – Celebrating Jamaican culture and cuisine.

A Fireside Chat – An intimate conversation about Fraser-Pryce's journey.

The Champion Gallery presented by Nike – Honoring her athletic achievements.

The AFIMI Salon – A firsthand look at the new hair care products.

Fraser-Pryce, who turned 38 in December, continues to inspire beyond the track, blending her personal passion for hair care with a mission to empower others. The

AFIMI hair care line reflects her commitment to embracing natural beauty and offering products that are both effective and accessible.

As she nears retirement from professional athletics, Fraser-Pryce is focused on building a lasting legacy that extends beyond sports. The launch of AFIMI represents an exciting new chapter in her extraordinary journey, celebrating her resilience, excellence, and cultural heritage.

- Rewritten from SportsMax



Jamaica's Sunshine Girls Clinch Margaret Beckford Sunshine Series

Jamaica's Sunshine Girls delivered an emphatic performance to secure the Margaret Beckford Sunshine Series title with a convincing 58-47 victory over South Africa at the National Indoor Sports Centre recently. The win completed a 3-0 series sweep, adding to their recent triumph over England in the Vitality Netball Horizon Series last November.



Jamaica's Sunshine Girls celebrate their win over South Africa. (CMC image)

Head coach Sasher-Gaye Henry expressed her satisfaction with the team's progress and emphasized their commitment to continued development. "We are excited for the win and grateful for the opportunity," said Henry. "This is part of a journey we've started, and it's only our second step. We aim to build on these results and focus on further skills development as we prepare for future challenges."

A Strong Start Leads To Victory

The Sunshine Girls came out firing, quickly establishing a commanding 10-goal lead within the first six minutes. However, South Africa's Elmere van de Berg and Kamogelo Maseko fought back, closing the gap to 14-9 at the end of the first quarter. Jamaica's star shooter, Shimona Jok, took control in the second quarter, netting 37 of her 40 attempts and maintaining an impressive accuracy rate throughout the series, missing only six shots across all three matches. Her dominant performance propelled Jamaica to a 29-19 halftime lead. In the third

quarter, Jok and Shanice Beckford continued their relentless attacking display, ensuring the Sunshine Girls remained firmly in control. Beckford contributed 14 goals from 19 attempts, while Rhea Dixon added five flawless goals to secure the win.

South Africa's Efforts Fall Short

Despite a spirited effort from South Africa, van de Berg's 30 goals from 33 attempts and Maseko's 16 goals from 17 shots were not enough to overcome Jamaica's aggressive play.

With another series victory under their belt, the Sunshine Girls will now shift focus to further developing their squad, with players returning to their respective leagues and continuing to hone their skills.

Jamaica's dominant performance in the series highlights their growing strength on the international stage as they set their sights on future competitions.

- Rewritten from CMC



Spring Health



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