



Happy **CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

JUNE 2025

Caribbean Today



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



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Celebrating the many influential Caribbean Americans throughout history and today. Pictured left to right: Alexander Hamilton, Marcus Garvey, Shirley Chisholm, Stokely Carmichael, Arthur Schomburg, W.E.B. Du Bois, Sir Sidney Poitier, Cicely Tyson, Harry Belafonte, Colin Powell, Sheryl Lee Ralph, and Letitia Wright.
(Collage image from NewsAmericasNow)



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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

The Caribbean Community Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) has welcomed new US legislation aimed at strengthening ties with CARICOM. The “Strengthening US-Caribbean Partnership Act,” introduced in Congress by Representatives Castro, Salazar, Cherfilus-McCormick, and Lawler, seeks to recognize CARICOM under the International Organization Immunities Act. COFCOR hailed the bipartisan move as a milestone in deepening Caribbean-American relations, emphasizing shared prosperity, security, and democratic values. The Council views the bill as a commitment to enhancing regional collaboration on trade, public health, climate resilience, and citizen security, while advancing mutual goals and people-to-people connections.

SURINAME

Suriname is on the brink of forming a new government after six opposition parties officially signed a coalition agreement Sunday night, June 1st. The move follows approval from the Central Political Body of the National Democratic Party (NDP), the main opposition party and election winner. The May 25 election, held under a new proportional representation system, made coalition-building essential. The six parties have secured 34 of the 51 parliamentary seats, surpassing the majority threshold. With no party holding a two-thirds majority, lengthy negotiations

are expected before a new president can be appointed.

GUYANA

Retired RCMP homicide investigator Leonard McCoshen has ruled out foul play in the death of 11-year-old Adriana Younge, based on a comprehensive review of the Guyana Police Force’s investigation. While he criticized the initial handling of the pool search at the Double Day Hotel in Tuschen, East Bank Essequibo, McCoshen concluded the tragedy was a drowning incident. His findings align with two autopsies, including one by U.S. Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Carol Terry, which found no signs of trauma. McCoshen reviewed over 400 documents and digital evidence before determining no foul play was involved.

BARBADOS

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has confirmed she will lead the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP) into the next general election, reversing her earlier decision to step down after this term. Speaking at a rally celebrating the BLP’s St James North by-election win, Mottley, 59, said overwhelming appeals from citizens and the weight of national and global challenges influenced her decision. Recalling personal grief following her brother’s death, she admitted 2022 was a time of great emotional strain. “True leadership is never about comfort,” she said. “It is about calling, timing, and service.”



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley surrounded by other members of her team after her announcement on May 24, 2025. (CMC image)

JAMAICA

Jamaica recorded its lowest poverty rate ever in 2023, falling to 8.2% from 16.7% in 2021, according to the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The data, based on the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, reflects a strong post-COVID recovery. PIOJ Director General Dr. Wayne Henry noted broad-based economic growth of 2.6%, increased employment, and rising household incomes. By October 2023, employment reached 1.32 million, with unemployment dropping to 4.2%. Youth joblessness also declined significantly. The growth, especially in tourism and outsourcing, helped lift Jamaicans out of poverty and improve living standards nationwide.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Tensions are brewing between the Trinidad and

Tobago government and the University of the West Indies, (UWI), over the future of UWI’s South campus in Debe. UWI recently announced that the campus will reopen in August as the home of its new Global School of Medicine (GSM), catering primarily to international MD students. Despite financial constraints, UWI said it has completed critical repairs and security upgrades, restoring major facilities such as the academic building, students’ union, auditorium, and health center to high standards in preparation for the phased reopening.

Meanwhile, Caribbean Airlines (CAL), owned by Trinidad and Tobago, has issued a public apology after a recent in-flight magazine advertisement mistakenly featured an incomplete map of Guyana. In a statement, CAL affirmed its recognition of Guyana’s full 83,000 square miles and expressed regret for the error, assuring it was unintentional. The airline emphasized its respect for national symbols and the sovereignty of all nations it serves. CAL says it has launched an internal investigation and will strengthen review protocols. The airline thanked Guyanese stakeholders for their continued support and pledged its ongoing commitment to unity and respect across the region.

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Police in St. Vincent and the Grenadines say they have recovered passports from Mali as they investigate a mysterious vessel that washed ashore in Canouan on Monday. The 45-foot boat was found grounded near Little Bay, Cherry Hill, with the decomposed remains of 11 people onboard. Some bodies were not fully intact. Authorities believe the victims may be from the West African nation but have not confirmed any identities. The remains have been moved to Kingstown for further forensic analysis. Police are working with international partners and

urging the public to remain patient and contact them with any helpful information.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda has officially opened its Embassy in the United Arab Emirates, marking a significant step in strengthening ties with the Gulf nation. Foreign Minister E.P. Chet Greene and Ambassador Gilbert Boustany led the ceremony, attended by UAE Ministers Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and Reem Al Hashimy. Greene called the opening a landmark in foreign relations, praising the UAE’s innovation and diplomacy. Boustany described the Embassy as a gateway for strategic collaboration and cultural exchange. The move enhances Antigua and Barbuda’s global presence and connects the Caribbean with broader global partners.

ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia has launched a new insurance initiative to protect banana and plantain farmers from storm-related losses, ahead of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane season. Agriculture Minister Alfred Prospere said the program, developed with Grace Kennedy, targets the sector most vulnerable to climate-driven disasters. One million EC dollars have been allocated to support the scheme, which aims to reduce reliance on post-disaster government aid. Prospere noted plans to expand coverage to all agricultural producers, including vegetable growers, livestock farmers, and fishers. Future models may require farmer contributions, potentially linked to producing sales through local buyers.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Islands government has approved plans to introduce immigration term limits for non-Caymanians in the civil service, set to take effect January 1, 2026. Premier André Ebanks said the move supports pro-Caymanian reforms, balancing public service needs with national immigration goals. The policy includes a two-year break in service after term limits, designated roles for Caymanians, and training mandates for succession planning. Exemptions will apply to preserve judicial independence and critical services. Deputy Governor Franz Manderson emphasized that term limits must be paired with strategies to boost Caymanian employment and service continuity.

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White House Ignores National Caribbean American Heritage Month

This June 2025 marks a significant milestone in the celebration of Caribbean heritage in the United States - 20 years since the first Presidential Proclamation recognizing National Caribbean American Heritage Month, initially signed by President George W. Bush. So far this year, the Trump White House has failed to issue a proclamation for National Caribbean American Heritage Month (CAHM), marking the first time in two decades that the federal observance has gone unrecognized at the presidential level.

June 1st, 2025 marked the 20th anniversary of CAHM - a milestone year that should have been celebrated widely. Yet, while proclamations were issued by the Trump White House on May 16th for both Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month, the Caribbean American community has so far received no such acknowledgment.

Traditionally, proclamations recognizing CAHM are released on or before May 31st. As recently as last year, the Biden administration had celebrated the month, emphasizing the vital role that Caribbean immigrants have played in shaping the United States. That 2024 proclamation praised the "diverse cultures" and "unwavering contributions" of Caribbean Americans who helped uphold America's "most sacred values of opportunity and freedom."

The inaugural proclamation establishing Caribbean American Heritage Month was issued on June 5, 2008, by then-President George W. Bush. In it, Bush declared: "Our Nation has thrived as a country of immigrants, and we are more vibrant and hopeful because of the talent, faith, and values of Caribbean Americans."

But today, as the Trump administration intensifies its rollback of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies, the month appears to have been sidelined. The silence comes just days after a controversial U.S. Supreme Court decision on May 30th allowed the administration to move forward with revoking humanitarian parole protections for over 500,000 migrants from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela - many of whom are Caribbean nationals.

The ruling has left countless immigrants in legal limbo and deepened the anxiety already rippling through the Caribbean diaspora, particularly among those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Haitians and Cubans now face the threat of deportation come August and September, respectively, despite escalating violence and unrest in their home countries.

Still, the demographic footprint of Caribbean Americans remains undeniable. Caribbean immigrant Alexander Hamilton, born in Charlestown, Saint Kitts and Nevis, was a U.S. Founding Father and the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury. A key architect of America's financial system, Hamilton served under President George Washington from 1789 to 1795. He also co-founded the Federalist Party and the African

Free School and played a pivotal role in shaping the early United States.

Meanwhile, according to 2020 U.S. Census data - the first decennial survey to allow respondents to write in their Caribbean ancestry - some 4.6 million people in the U.S. identified as having roots in the Caribbean. The majority hailed from three nations: Jamaica (1,047,117), Haiti (1,032,747), and Trinidad and Tobago (194,364).

Caribbean presence in the U.S. dates back centuries. Historians like Jennifer Faith Gray of the Scottish Centre for Global History note that enslaved Africans were brought from the Caribbean to the U.S. as early as the 1660s, with one-third to half of enslaved persons in the Carolinas during the colonial era coming directly from the Caribbean. Harvard University, among others, profited from Caribbean slave labor through financial instruments and loans.

One of the most notable acts of Caribbean American resistance in U.S. history came in 1822, when Denmark Vesey, a Caribbean-born former slave, led a planned slave revolt in Charleston, South Carolina - one of the largest of its time.

Despite this rich and complex legacy, the lack of White House recognition in 2025 leaves many in the Caribbean American community asking: where is the respect, and who will stand up for us now?

"To celebrate National Caribbean American Heritage Month 2025 is to honor a legacy of creativity, resilience, and lasting contribution," said Francine Campbell-Hakim, Program Chair of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month Commemorative Committee. "This year's theme reminds us that Caribbean Americans are not just part of the American story - they are visionaries and changemakers whose influence, from the arts to activism, continues to shape the nation's culture and progress."

Led by the Institute of Caribbean Studies, (ICS), the month-long celebration will feature events and programs nationwide - from cultural festivals and educational panels to music performances and storytelling sessions - encouraging all communities to learn about and celebrate the Caribbean American experience.

FAMOUS CARIBBEAN AMERICANS IN HISTORY

Alexander Hamilton

America's greatest immigrant, Alexander Hamilton, was born on the Caribbean island of Nevis and also lived in St. Croix. A key figure in U.S. history, Hamilton served as an American military officer, statesman, and Founding Father. He became the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury, serving from 1789 to 1795, and played a pivotal role in shaping the U.S. financial system.



Marcus Garvey

Jamaican-born Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jr. ONH (1887-1940) was a pioneering political activist and the founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL). As the UNIA's first President-General, Garvey championed Black nationalism and Pan-Africanism, declaring himself the Provisional President of Africa. His influential philosophy, known as Garveyism, inspired global movements for Black empowerment and unity. He was deported from the U.S.



Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Anita Chisholm, born to Caribbean parents from Barbados and Guyana, made history in 1968 as the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Representing New York's 12th District in Brooklyn, she served seven terms until 1983. In 1972, Chisholm broke further ground as the first Black candidate for a major party's presidential nomination and the first woman to seek the Democratic nomination. Known for her unwavering fight against injustice, she was a fierce advocate for civil and women's rights throughout her trailblazing career.



Stokely Carmichael

Kwame Ture, born Stokely Carmichael in Trinidad, was a powerful voice in the U.S. civil rights and global Pan-African movements. After moving to the U.S. at age 11, he rose to prominence as a student activist and became a central figure in the Black Power movement. He led the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), served as the "Honorary Prime Minister" of the Black Panther Party, and later led the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, (A-APRP).



Arthur Schomburg

Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, born in Puerto Rico in 1874, was a historian, writer, and activist of African and German descent. After moving to New York City in 1891, he dedicated his life to uncovering and celebrating the contributions of Afro-Latin Americans and African Americans. A key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, Schomburg's vast collection of African diaspora materials became the foundation of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black



Culture at the New York Public Library.

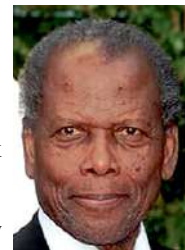
W.E.B. Du Bois

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, born in 1868 in Massachusetts, was a pioneering African American sociologist, historian, and civil rights activist with Haitian roots through his father. The first Black American to earn a doctorate from Harvard, Du Bois became a leader of the Niagara Movement and a champion of Pan-Africanism. He strongly advocated for full civil rights and higher education for African Americans, promoting the rise of the "Talented Tenth" to uplift the race. His work laid the foundation for future generations in the fight for racial equality.



Sir Sidney Poitier

Bahamian American legend Sidney Poitier made history in 1964 as the first Black actor and first Bahamian to win an Academy Award for Best Actor. Born in 1927, Poitier was also a celebrated director, activist, and diplomat. His groundbreaking career earned him numerous honors, including Golden Globe, BAFTA, and Grammy Awards. Poitier remains a towering figure in cinema and a trailblazer in the fight for representation and dignity on screen.



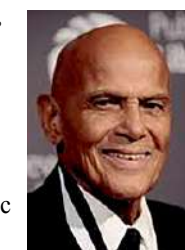
Cicely Tyson

Cicely Tyson, the daughter of Caribbean immigrants from Nevis, built a groundbreaking career portraying resilient African American women with dignity and depth. Born in Harlem in 1924, Tyson began as a model before moving into acting, refusing roles that demeaned Black women. Her performances in *Souther*, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, and *Roots* brought her critical acclaim and Emmy Awards. Tyson became a style icon and a voice of the "Black is Beautiful" movement, eventually earning a Tony Award at 88, a Presidential Medal of Freedom, and an honorary Oscar. She passed away in 2021, just days after publishing her memoir, *Just As I Am*.



Harry Belafonte

Harry Belafonte, born in Harlem to Jamaican and Martiniquean parents, carried his Caribbean roots into every facet of his music and activism. Spending much of his childhood



in Jamaica, where he attended Wolmer's Schools, Belafonte's cultural foundation deeply shaped his artistry. He introduced calypso music to global audiences with hits like "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)," and his activism was inspired by the shared struggles he witnessed in both Jamaica and Harlem. Belafonte's legacy endures as a trailblazer who celebrated Caribbean identity while championing human rights worldwide.

Colin Powell

Colin Luther Powell, born in New York City to Jamaican immigrants, made history as the first African American U.S. Secretary of State, serving from 2001 to 2005. A four-star general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Powell's 35-year military career included leadership during major global crises such as Operation Desert Storm. His Caribbean heritage shaped his values of service and leadership. Powell was also a best-selling author and public speaker, receiving numerous honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He passed away in 2021 at age 84.



Sheryl Lee Ralph

Sheryl Lee Ralph, born to Jamaican heritage, is an acclaimed actress and singer who made her mark with a Tony-nominated role in *Dreamgirls* and a historic Emmy win in 2022 for *Abbott Elementary*. Her film and TV credits span decades, including standout performances in *To Sleep with Anger*, *Moesha*, and *Sister Act 2*. Ralph has also graced Broadway and produced major plays, continuing to elevate Black voices in the arts. Her vibrant career and cultural pride make her a celebrated icon in entertainment.



Letitia Wright

Guyanese-born British actress Letitia Wright rose to international fame as Shuri in *Marvel's Black Panther* (2018), captivating audiences with her sharp wit and tech genius role. Born in Georgetown, Guyana, Wright moved to London at age seven and pursued acting after being inspired by Akeelah and the Bee. Despite early struggles with depression, her faith and passion reignited her career, leading to acclaimed roles in *Urban Hymn*, *Black Mirror*, and beyond. Wright remains a powerful representation of Caribbean talent on the global stage.



Caribbean Immigrant Among Those Illegally Deported To Africa By Trump Administration

In a deportation move sparking widespread outrage and legal scrutiny, the Trump administration has deported multiple immigrants - including two Caribbean nationals — to South Sudan, a war-torn country in East Africa, in direct defiance of a federal court order.

Among those deported were two Cuban nationals, one of whom, Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Quinones, is at the center of growing controversy. Cuba has a long-standing policy of not accepting deportees with criminal convictions, and neither man had any documented ties to South Sudan.

Court filings confirmed that Rodriguez-Quinones, who was convicted of arson and attempted murder in the U.S.,

was deported earlier this month alongside seven other individuals from various nations, including Mexico, Burma, and Vietnam. The deportations were carried out despite an injunction issued by Judge Brian E. Murphy in Boston, who barred removals to third countries without legal review.

“These removals violate the clear orders of this court,” Judge Murphy said, stating that the government had “unquestionably” defied his directive. He has since ordered the administration to maintain custody and control of the deportees and granted them new interviews to reassess their immigration status.

The individuals are now believed to be held at a U.S.

military base in Djibouti, not South Sudan, following Judge Murphy’s ruling that they not be handed over to the unstable African government. Legal advocates are sounding the alarm, warning that sending immigrants - especially from vulnerable populations like the Caribbean — to regions gripped by civil unrest, famine, and violence without proper legal procedures is a gross violation of human rights.

Rodriguez-Quinones’s case is particularly troubling. It remains unclear whether he was granted a hearing before an immigration judge prior to his deportation. His co-national, Enrique Arias-Hierro, had been ordered removed in 1999 but reportedly never appealed. Both

men served lengthy prison terms in the U.S., but critics argue that criminal history does not negate their right to due process or protection from unsafe deportation.

ICE officials defended the action, blaming “activist judges” for interfering with immigration enforcement and claiming such deportations protect public safety. However, human rights organizations and immigration attorneys argue that the Trump-era policies reflect a dangerous erosion of legal norms and are likely to place lives at risk. Under U.S. immigration law, deporting migrants to third countries is permitted in limited cases — but rarely used in past administrations. Deporting Caribbean and Latin American

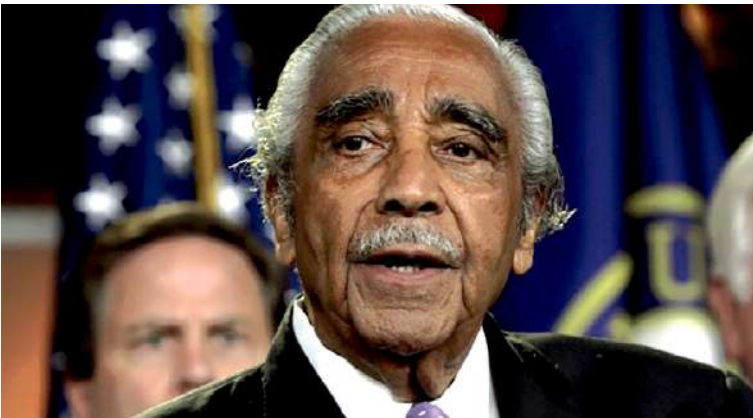
nationals to African countries with no familial, cultural, or national ties represents an unprecedented move that may violate both domestic and international laws.

The U.S. government has now asked the Supreme Court to allow expedited deportations to third countries, challenging the lower court’s requirement that migrants be given a meaningful opportunity to object. Meanwhile, the Caribbean community and immigration advocates continue to demand accountability and justice for those caught in the crosshairs of an increasingly aggressive immigration policy.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean-American Leaders Mourn Trailblazing Congressman Charles Rangel



Late Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel.

Caribbean-American legislators are mourning the passing of trailblazing former U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel, who died Monday at age 94 in Harlem. Rangel, a decorated Korean War veteran, served over four decades in Congress, where he became the first African American to chair the powerful Ways and Means Committee and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke called him “a giant” and “friend of the Caribbean,” praising his advocacy for Haitian migrants and efforts to strengthen U.S.-Caribbean ties. Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries hailed Rangel’s unmatched public service, including his leadership during the Nixon impeachment and the 2008 recession, and his authorship of key legislation like the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the Rangel Amendment, which targeted Apartheid South Africa.

Brooklyn Assemblywoman Rodney Bichotte Hermelyn called Rangel “a towering leader” who shaped civil rights and progressive policy. Jamaican American mayoral candidate Rev. Michael Blake remembered him as a mentor and community champion. Garifuna Coalition’s Jose Avila and Senator Chuck Schumer praised Rangel’s legacy

of justice and service. NYC Speaker Adrienne Adams said his patriotism and dedication to Harlem and the nation will continue to inspire generations.

Caribbean-born Congressman, Adriano Espaillat, who replaced Rangel in Congress in the 13th Congressional District in NYC, (NY-13), has announced a resolution to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to former Rangel.

“Congressman Rangel served with distinction, representing Harlem, El Barrio, Washington Heights/Inwood, and the Northwest Bronx for nearly five decades,” said Espaillat. “As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a decorated war hero, his contributions to American policy and civil rights are immeasurable.”

Espaillat praised Rangel as the “Lion of Lenox Avenue,” whose legacy deserves this rare and prestigious honor.

Congressman Charles Rangel will be honored with public memorials in Harlem and City Hall from June 9th – 12th. A funeral Mass will be held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on June 13th at 9:45 a.m.

- Rewritten from CMC



Sanctioned Guyanese Billionaire Wants To Be President

A US-sanctioned Guyanese billionaire has announced his candidacy for president in Guyana’s September 1 elections.

Azruddin Mohammed, in a video statement, declared his vision for a “new Guyana,” pledging to build a nation grounded in equality and trust. The US sanctioned Mohammed, his father Nazar, and their company, Mohamed’s Enterprise, in June 2024 for corruption and tax evasion. OFAC cited underreporting over 10,000 kg of gold and evading over US\$50 million in taxes. Mohamed has been granted bail in the sum of GYD \$500,000 following his arraignment last week on two criminal charges related to alleged tax evasion and fraudulent declarations to the Guyana Revenue Authority, (GRA). Despite these allegations, Mohammed says he is ready to serve and transform Guyana through genuine leadership and national unity.

In a video posted on Team Mohamed’s Facebook page, the businessman officially declared his candidacy, vowing to build a world-class Guyana rooted in equality, trust, and unity. Mohamed emphasized his commitment to diplomacy, integrity, and public service. He welcomed international election observers and reaffirmed the need for genuine democratic oversight. “The oil is temporary, the gold will run out, but the potential of our people is permanent,” he declared, urging citizens to be vigilant guardians of democracy.

Guyana is officially headed to the polls in September following an announcement by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who has declared the date for the country’s General and Regional Elections. The announcement was made on May 25th, during national celebrations marking Guyana’s 59th Independence Anniversary.



United States sanctioned billionaire businessman, Azruddin Mohammed, says he will contest the presidential elections scheduled for September 1 this year. (CMC image)

President Ali stated that he will soon issue the formal proclamation to dissolve Parliament, in keeping with constitutional requirements. Under Guyana’s Constitution, elections must be held within three months of Parliament’s dissolution.

This declaration sets the stage for a pivotal and closely watched election, as Guyana navigates a period of rapid economic transformation spurred by its oil and gas sector, and rising geopolitical tensions over the Essequibo region, which remains the subject of a territorial dispute with neighboring Venezuela.

The announcement came just one day after Venezuela held symbolic legislative and regional elections for Guyana’s oil-rich Essequibo territory, despite a ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordering Venezuela to suspend such actions. Adding to the significance of the moment, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a formal statement congratulating Guyana on its independence and expressing strong support for the country’s democratic and economic trajectory.

“On behalf of the Government of the United States, I extend warm congratulations to the people of the Cooperative

Republic of Guyana on your 59th Independence Day,” said Secretary Rubio. “The United States reaffirms its steadfast commitment to our partnership with Guyana, grounded in shared democratic values and a mutual dedication to regional security and prosperity.”

Rubio noted Guyana’s ongoing economic transformation under President Ali’s leadership, emphasizing the importance of transparent governance, the rule of law, and inclusive development. He reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to combating transnational crime, promoting energy and economic security, and supporting responsible private sector investment in Guyana.

But Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro declared the creation of a 24th Venezuelan state called “Guayana Esequiba” and installed a symbolic governor and eight deputies, even though no polling took place on Guyanese soil.

President Ali condemned the move, calling it a “threat” to Guyana’s sovereignty. “We will do everything to ensure our territorial integrity is kept intact,” he said, reiterating his government’s commitment to peace but vowing to defend Guyana’s internationally recognized borders.

With political parties expected to intensify campaign activities in the coming weeks, the September 1 elections are poised to be a defining moment for Guyana’s democracy, economy, and global standing.

The last general elections were held in March 2020, following a protracted political crisis that drew widespread international attention and scrutiny.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Outrage Erupts As Supreme Court Ends Humanitarian Parole For Haitians, Other Immigrants

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Caribbean American lawmakers and immigrant advocates across South Florida and beyond are denouncing a devastating ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that threatens the legal status of over half a million migrants from Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. The U.S. Supreme Court granted the Trump Administration's request to stay a district court order in *Svitlana Doe v. Noem*, stripping the legal status and work permits of many who came to the U.S. through the humanitarian parole processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans, ("CHNV").

"This decision is cruel and inhumane," said U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, (D-Miami), reacting to the May 30th decision that allows the Trump administration to revoke a humanitarian parole program initiated under President Biden. "These are folks escaping brutal dictatorships, gang violence, and turmoil... Deporting them is a death sentence."

Broward County U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick,

the only Haitian American woman in Congress, echoed the concern, calling the ruling "a direct attack on South Florida's economy." She warned it would devastate families, weaken the workforce, and dismantle the very communities many of these migrants have helped build.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, a Haitian American and longtime advocate for immigrant rights, said the ruling "will bring fear, trauma, and disruption to families... right here in Miami-Dade County." She vowed to continue fighting for dignity and justice.

"The Supreme Court has effectively greenlit deportation orders for an estimated half a million people, the largest such de-legalization in the modern era. Today's decision beats the record they set just two weeks ago when they allowed the termination of TPS for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans living in the U.S.," said Karen Tumlin, founder and



Haitian Bridge Alliance was one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. (Haitian Bridge Alliance image)

director of Justice Action Center.

"We are outraged to see the continued attacks on the families and communities, including those who are here with lawful status through the CHNV humanitarian parole process. Once again, the Trump Administration blatantly proves their disregard for the lives of those truly in need of protection by taking away their status and rendering them undocumented. We have already seen the traumatic impact on children and families afraid to even go to school, church or work," said Guerline Jozef, Executive Director and Founder of organizational plaintiff, Haitian Bridge Alliance.

The Supreme Court's 7-2 decision - opposed only by

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson - clears the way for the Trump administration to end a program that provided two-year work and residency permits to over 500,000 migrants from the four nations. The program, which required financial sponsorship, also created pathways to asylum for those fleeing humanitarian crises.

The ruling overturned a lower court decision in Boston that had temporarily halted the termination. Now, these migrants face imminent deportation or must leave voluntarily, despite the dangers in their home countries.

Haiti has spiraled into chaos. According to the United Nations, more than 5,600 people have been killed since 2024 as gang violence grips the nation. Medical supplies and food have become scarce. International reports confirm that many Haitians, fearing deportation, have already fled to Canada and France seeking refuge. In April alone, 1,211 migrants attempted to enter Canada via the New York border, only to be turned away under strict asylum rules.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney told the New York

Times, "Canada can't accept everyone," while acknowledging the humanitarian nature of the crisis.

Legal experts warn that the Supreme Court's decision could mark one of the most extensive mass removals of legal immigrants in modern U.S. history. With few legal options remaining, many families now face separation, economic hardship, and potential return to violence.

The humanitarian parole program was a cornerstone of Biden-era immigration policy. Now, the Supreme Court's decision gives Trump the green light to carry out large-scale deportations under a crackdown plan that critics say targets even those with legal status.

While legal advocates argue this decision flies in the face of U.S. constitutional protections and international human rights norms, the court's majority disagreed. The result is a policy reversal with far-reaching, real-life consequences for hundreds of thousands who sought hope, safety, and opportunity - and found instead, rejection.



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Guyana Named World's Only Fully Food-Self-Sufficient Country

Guyana has emerged as the only country in the world capable of fully feeding its population without relying on food imports, according to a groundbreaking new study published in Nature Food. The study, which analyzed food production data from 186 nations, identified Guyana as the sole country that achieves full food self-sufficiency, making it a global standout amid rising food insecurity.

The findings come as no surprise to regional leaders, who have long positioned Guyana as the breadbasket of the Caribbean under CARICOM's 'Vision 25 by 2025' initiative, which aims to reduce the region's food import bill.

The Road To Self-Sufficiency

Guyana's success stems from a bold, multi-sectoral investment in agriculture spearheaded by the government since 2020. Public spending in the agriculture sector has surged by 468%, transforming the country's food landscape and fueling rapid growth across crops, livestock, aquaculture, and apiculture.

In 2025 alone, GY\$430.9 million was allocated to the rice sector, boosting seed production to 152,000 bags annually. The livestock and fisheries sectors received GY\$1.7 billion, resulting

in a 24.6% growth in meat and dairy output and a 13.7% increase in aquaculture.

The Broiler Breeder Project, a key initiative, delivered 167,000 hatching eggs and supported over 5,500 farmers, while improved fisheries landing sites across five regions saw GY\$300 million in upgrades.

Crop Expansion And Innovation Guyana has also made major strides in corn and soybean cultivation, expanding from 10,000 acres in 2023 to a projected 25,000 acres in 2025, with biannual planting cycles. This effort is supported by over GY\$1.2 billion in infrastructure investments, including 40 kilometers of farm roads.

Legume production is also scaling, with 663 acres of red beans already in production and a national target of 8,000 acres to meet local demand. Each acre is expected to yield about 1,600 pounds, potentially generating over 1.6 million pounds of red beans annually.

Additionally, the apiculture sector has seen explosive growth. Honey production jumped from 2,600 gallons in 2023 to nearly



Corn and soy fields in Guyana

30,000 gallons in 2024, thanks to the distribution of 500 hives to over 1,300 beekeepers.

Empowering Farmers And Youth

To support these advances, the government removed VAT on agricultural machinery and introduced a GY\$2 billion fertilizer support program, providing one bag of fertilizer per acre to farmers.

Youth engagement has also been central. The Agriculture Innovative and Entrepreneurship Programme, (AIEP) has empowered over 70% of its young participants to become agri-business owners, while over 200 shade houses have been constructed to support high-value crop cultivation.

A Model For Global Food Security

"Guyana has not only

secured its own food future but is leading the way for CARICOM and beyond," said President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who has championed agricultural transformation as a national and regional priority.

As global food systems face

mounting challenges from climate change, geopolitical instability, and supply chain disruptions, Guyana's self-sufficiency offers a model of resilience and innovation for nations worldwide.



Fosrich Unveils "The Hamptons" Housing Development In Trelawny, Jamaica

In a bold move to reshape Jamaica's residential landscape, FosRich Group CEO Cecil Foster recently unveiled plans for a transformative housing development dubbed "The Hamptons, Trelawny" during the Jamaica Investment and Housing Forum held at Resorts World hotel in Queens, New York last month.

The multimillion-dollar venture will convert 100 acres of the scenic Salt Marsh fishing village in Trelawny into a premier, gated residential community, featuring over 600 modern housing units, world-class amenities, and a sustainability-first ethos. With views overlooking the Falmouth Cruise Pier, the development targets both diaspora investors and local professionals seeking a lifestyle-driven community with an eco-conscious design.

"It is going to be very, very unique," Foster told an enthusiastic crowd, describing a mix of 2, 3, and 4-bedroom apartment units and standalone homes. Thoughtfully planned amenities include 550-meter jogging trails, gazebos, a bird sanctuary, daycare facilities, and even a reggae music village that honors Jamaica's cultural roots.

Foster emphasized the development's integrated approach, supported by a proposed 300,000-square-foot commercial complex to house doctors' offices, dining venues, supermarkets, entertainment spaces, and retailers. "We have recognized that Montego Bay is congested," he said, positioning The Hamptons as a new hub for living and commerce in Trelawny.

In a move aligning with FosRich's leadership in solar energy solutions, Foster confirmed that The Hamptons will be powered by solar energy, marking a milestone for renewable development in the Caribbean. "Jamaica needs something like this," he declared, stressing the project's potential to redefine modern Caribbean living. The location - semi-rural and serene - was chosen for its ability



FosRich Group CEO Cecil Foster announced plans for a visionary development at the Jamaica Investment and Housing forum at the Resort World hotel in Queens, New York.

to seamlessly accommodate nature-based amenities while offering comfort and security. "Trelawny brings that kind of aura," Foster said, describing it as ideal for both returning Jamaicans and those looking for a high-quality second home.

Backed by a strong financial performance, FosRich's venture into real estate is well-supported. The company reported \$3.697 billion in revenue for 2023, with notable growth in solar energy, industrial, and PVC manufacturing segments. Despite a dip in net profit, FosRich's continued reinvestment underscores its confidence in long-term expansion.

The announcement drew significant attention from dignitaries including Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce Senator Aubyn Hill, Jamaica's Consul General to New York Alston Wilson, Chairman of the Jamaica Stock Exchange Steven Wittingham, and JSE Managing Director Dr. Marlene Street Forrest. Also in attendance were Kelli-Downer Hamilton, CEO of the Jamaica Economic Zone Authority, and Jampro President Shullette Cox.

As groundbreaking is anticipated within six months, "The Hamptons, Trelawny" is not just another housing development - it is a statement of vision, innovation, and national pride, poised to set a new benchmark for sustainable living in the Caribbean.



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This Caribbean American Wants To Become The First Black Mayor Of Miami

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

As Miami Mayor Francis Suarez is facing term limits in 2025, several candidates have filed paperwork to become the next city's top elected official.

Among them is Michael A. Hepburn, who is seeking to become the first Black/Caribbean mayor for the city of Miami and its 44th. It will be an uphill battle for the Bahamian heritage Hepburn, as he faces tough competition in the race for

the November 4, 2025 election.

Also running for mayor are former city commissioners Ken Russell; Miami-Dade County Commissioner Elien Higgins; former Miami City manager Emilio Gonzalez, who was also director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service; real estate professional Maxwell Martinez, and grassroots advocate June Savage.

Considering running also is current City Commissioner and former Miami mayor Joe Carollo and former city commissioner

Alex de la Portila, who was suspended from political office after he was charged with corruption. Those charges were later dropped.

Hepburn, 42, who describes himself as an "activist, ally and advocate," unsuccessfully ran for a commission seat in 2021. He said he is ready to put an end to the political turmoil at City Hall and restore residents' faith in elected officials.

"Career politicians have failed us,"

Hepburn states on his social media campaign. "We need real leadership, and we need to restore faith and trust in our political process. We cannot continue to operate the same way we have done in the past, with less than 14% of our registered voters here in the City of Miami participating in municipal elections."

In addition to fighting



Michael Hepburn wants to make history by becoming the first Black mayor of Miami. (Photo: Facebook/Michael Hepburn)

corruption, Hepburn said his campaign is focusing on enhancing public safety, improving resilience to sea level rise and extreme heat and building more affordable housing. He has pledged not to accept money from corporate PACs, lobbyists, developers or vendors doing business with the city. Hepburn points to

grassroots support, such as the 10,300 Miami voters who have subscribed to his "Hepburn-on-the-Block" newsletter since Jan. 15th.

Hepburn was raised by a single mother and graduated high school where he played football, baseball and ran track and earned the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award. He earned a bachelor's degree from Florida International University and served in junior executive roles for the NFL.

Hepburn worked as a senior project manager for Fortune 500 companies, college institutions and non-profit organizations. He said voters must elect the right people in political office to avoid corruption.

"Civic organizations, neighborhood associations, and political activism groups, cannot continue to wait until right before the election to educate voters," said Hepburn. "We need to cultivate civically engaged communities."



Celebrate Global Africa And Caribbean American Heritage Month In Miramar

As part of the celebration of Global Africa and Caribbean American Heritage Month, the City of Miramar, Florida, will host the Global Africa Symposium on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Miramar Commission Chamber.

This free event, organized by the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Americas, (NIDOAA), Florida Chapter, invites the public to engage with policymakers, business leaders, scholars, and cultural influencers as they explore the expanding influence of Africa on global affairs.

Attendees will enjoy Afrobeats music, authentic African cuisine, exciting giveaways, and prizes, all while participating in vibrant discussions on Africa's global economic impact, tourism networks, and diaspora leadership.

The symposium emphasizes the shared history, culture, and contributions of Caribbean and African communities. The symposium is also a precursor to the upcoming 4th Annual AfriCaribbean Trade & Investment Forum, hosted by AFREXIMBank in Grenada this July.

Registration is mandatory and can be completed at <https://nidoausaflorida.org/gas/>

Florida Law Gives Former Inmates Career Credit Toward Licenses

Formerly incarcerated individuals in Florida seeking to reintegrate into the workforce will now benefit from a new bipartisan measure signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. The legislation, SB 472, ensures that career and technical education credits earned in prison will count toward professional licensure upon release.

Effective July 1, 2025, SB 472 mandates a partnership

between the Florida Department of Corrections and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to certify that inmates who complete approved vocational programs receive licensure credit in corresponding trades. These include high-demand fields such as barbering, cosmetology, landscaping, electrical work, plumbing, and HVAC contracting.

Florida's Correctional Education Program, operated by the Department of Corrections, currently offers 92 career and technical courses across 37 trades. From 2020 to 2024, the program awarded over 36,000 certificates and credentials. However, these qualifications were previously not recognized outside the prison system - an issue the new law addresses.

SB 472 was championed by Republican Sen. Keith Truenow, with a House companion bill (HB 195) sponsored by Democratic Rep. Kevin Chambliss and Republican Rep. Rachel Plakon. The bill passed unanimously through both chambers.

Governor DeSantis had vetoed a similar proposal last year, citing a provision on licensing board discretion that is absent from the new bill. This time, the legislation garnered broad support from advocacy and industry groups including the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, Florida Retail Federation, and the Florida Smart Justice Alliance.

Amid labor shortages across various trades in Florida, the law aims to both enhance public safety and address workforce needs, making it a step toward more inclusive economic development.

- Rewritten from
FloridaPolitics.com



JAMAICA
at 63

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FEATURE



Desiree Faulkner - A Caribbean American Real Estate Developer With A Cause

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

A real estate developer, realtor, and architect, Desiree Faulkner has a passion for building and creating communities. It's not just about the structures, it's about working with underserved communities to create pride, safety, and stability.

So, establishing her own firm, the Miami-based Faulkner Partners, meant she would have complete control over the projects she felt would do the best.

"I really wanted to do projects that were meaningful, that would uplift communities and projects that would make statements and really change the narrative for young women," Faulkner told Caribbean Today recently. "Projects that would speak to my whole life, that would speak to education, the youth, housing, the churches, arts and recreation, I want to create."

Building With A Purpose
Born and raised in St. Lucia, Faulkner always had an interest in architecture, starting in secondary school. At the tender age of 18, she began her formal

architectural education, and upon graduation, worked with an architectural firm in New York, where she learnt the ropes as a construction manager before eventually making her mark in the field. Today, almost 30 years later, the developer is indeed building with a purpose.

One of those projects, was her work on Liberty Square several years ago, which she referred to as her "baptism of fire." A public housing apartment complex in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood dealing with issues of crime and poverty, is still being re-developed with the goal of creating a mixed-use, mixed-income community that will generate economic opportunities for its residents.

Asked about some of her most ambitious projects, Faulkner spoke about her involvement in the reshaping of downtown Doral, in the city of Doral, Florida, that saw the successful creation of a mixed-use community bringing together single-family homes, condo units, retail spaces, restaurants and schools. But her eyes truly sparkled when she spoke about

her current undertaking.

"It's called the northwest 54th street revival project, in Liberty City," explained Faulkner. "We are taking elements that we learned from Doral and bringing (it) here - the housing, the educational facilities, the retail spaces, community health facilities."

When Faulkner worked on Liberty Square, her eyes were opened to the needs of the wider community. She saw their struggles and the deteriorating environment that many lived in. She determined to address the housing shortage and create economic opportunities and the northwest 54th street revival project was born through her desire to uplift the community.

"It speaks to my values. It speaks to how I was raised,



Born and raised in St. Lucia, Desiree Faulkner always had an interest in architecture, starting in secondary school. (Contributed image)

about community," she revealed. "If you create a winning environment, the people in that environment will succeed. So, I am bringing the winning environment to Liberty City."

We want to surround people, the children, with things foundational. Coming from the islands, we know those foundational core values."

Daughter Of The Caribbean
As a daughter of the Caribbean, Faulkner attributes her compassion, her values to her Caribbean-ness. she noted that when she migrated to New York, it was the morals and values her mother instilled in her and her foundational teachings from the church and the all-girls Catholic school she attended as a child, that gave her the sure-footedness she needed to thrive in that new environment.

"It was my Caribbean-ness that established me. My uniqueness, my ability to see things differently and wanting to succeed opened a lot of doors for me," she said with pride. "We have different things about us, and we have the drive."

Indeed, the developer sees issues and solutions from a different angle, noting that the deep-rooted issues that affect underserved communities are policies.



Top 10 Caribbean Books To Read This Caribbean American Heritage Month

As part of this year's celebration of National Caribbean American Heritage Month, the NCAHM Committee has unveiled the 2025 edition of the Caribbean Book Bankra - a curated list of 30 must-read books that honor the vibrant legacy of Caribbean literature and its global diaspora.

Now in its fourth year, the Caribbean Book Bankra continues to highlight emerging and established Caribbean authors whose works span genres such as fiction, poetry, memoir, young adult literature, and cultural studies. The initiative, launched in 2022, serves as both a literary celebration and a cultural movement to uplift Caribbean voices, stories, and perspectives.

For the first time, the 2025 Caribbean Book Bankra list will be featured in a national e-book club, expanding access to a broader audience and encouraging dialogue around Caribbean heritage and literature. Readers can register for the online book club and participate in author discussions and reading sessions at: <https://bit.ly/BOOKBANKRACLUB>

The Top 10 Must-Read Titles from the 2025 Caribbean Book Bankra:

1. "Patsy" by Nicole Dennis-Benn – A moving exploration of motherhood, migration, and personal freedom.

2. "The Mermaid of Black Conch" by Monique Roffey – A lyrical Caribbean myth retold with depth and beauty.

3. "How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House" by Cherie Jones – A gripping tale of violence, class, and survival set in Barbados.

4. "Born on a Tuesday" by Elnathan John – A powerful coming-of-age story in a politically charged Caribbean society.

5. "Dear Haiti, Love Alaine" by Maika and Maritza Moulite – A vibrant young adult novel blending Haitian heritage with modern themes.

6. "The Salt Fields" by Stacy D. Flood – A poetic novella that examines movement, memory, and longing.

7. "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson – A family saga rich with Caribbean flavors, secrets, and reconciliation.

8. "Augustown" by Kei Miller – A genre-defying novel that blends Jamaican folklore, history, and spirituality.

9. "The Year of Return: A Black Woman's African Homecoming" by Osei Badu-Nketia – A deeply personal memoir connecting

diaspora and ancestral roots.

10. "The Art of White Roses" by Viviana Prado-Núñez – A poignant young adult story set against the Cuban revolution.

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For more information about National Caribbean American Heritage Month, scan the code or click the link <https://bit.ly/NCAHM2025>

To view the complete list of all 30 selected titles, visit <https://bit.ly/2025NCAHMBOOKLIST>



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What You Should Know As An Immigrant If ICE Approaches You

Recent immigration enforcement sweeps across U.S. restaurants, including at Chef Geoff's - owned by the husband of CBS anchor Norah O'Donnell - are raising alarm in immigrant communities. These raids, now reportedly expanding to include delivery drivers and restaurant staff, highlight the ongoing fear faced by millions of immigrants nationwide.

In response, immigrant advocacy organization CASA has released a guide to help individuals prepare and protect themselves. Here's what every immigrant should know:

1. If You're Stopped In Public

You have rights. ICE or police may question you, but you do not have to respond unless they present a valid warrant or proof of a violation. Always ask, "Am I being arrested or detained?"

- If not, walk away calmly.
- If detained, present CASA's "Know Your Rights" card and request a lawyer.

Never lie or provide fake or foreign-issued documents. In some states, refusing to give your name can be a minor offense—but silence and a request for legal counsel are your strongest protections.

2. If Immigration Or Police Come To Your Home

Don't open the door. Ask officers to slip the warrant under the door or show it through a window. Only warrants signed by a judge authorize entry. If agents enter without

permission:

- Say: "I do not consent to this search."
- Record or document what you can safely.
- Remain silent and ask for a lawyer.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

3. If You're Stopped While Driving

Keep hands visible. Provide valid license and registration if asked. You don't have to answer questions about your immigration status.

Avoid fake or foreign IDs - they can lead to serious consequences including federal charges and permanent removal. Passengers can also decline to answer questions.

4. If Immigration Or Police Come To Your Workplace

Agents need a judge-signed warrant or explicit employer permission to enter private areas.

- Stay calm and don't flee.
- Show your Know Your Rights card if detained.
- Talk to your employer ahead of time to set boundaries and prepare.

5. If You're Arrested By Immigration

- Ask which agency arrested you and request badge numbers.
- Don't sign anything or answer questions without a lawyer.
- Memorize important phone numbers (lawyer, family, consulate).

- Always ask for your "Notice to Appear."
- Request a bond hearing - even if told you're not eligible.

6. Create a Safety Plan

At Work: Coordinate with coworkers and union reps to prepare for enforcement visits.

At Home:

- Carry valid ID and Know Your Rights materials.
- Share key personal info with

- trusted individuals.
- Set up a power of attorney, arrange care plans, and organize important documents.
- Save money for legal support and learn how to use the ICE Detainee Locator.

Stay Connected:

Save CASA's Raid Hotline: 1-888-214-6016

Visit wearecasa.org for downloadable resources and legal help.

By knowing your rights and

preparing in advance, immigrant families can better protect themselves during these uncertain times.

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.



Religious Opiate

Everyone needs something to hold on to, and it was Karl Marx who said: "Religion is the opiate of the masses." Ergo, people need religion to be their drug, their balm, their salvation. It's something that one gets hooked on that dulls the senses and leaves them in a dreamlike state.



TONY ROBINSON

Is that what religion does to people, and do we really need it to exist? If so, why is the influence and impact of the church waning with declining numbers?

It's a common cry among the church community that there has been a decline in the numbers of congregants participating in worship. Gone are the days when churches were bursting at the seams, pews were popping and overflowing with the parson preaching from the pulpit, and much pleasure derived from the assembly as they raised a joyful noise unto the Lord.

At least that's how I remember going to church in my youth, and we did so with religious regularity every

Sunday. It's an experience that we all looked forward to, plus attending Sunday School was an added activity that gave us great pleasure.

Now all that has changed, and even though churches are still being attended, the numbers just aren't there as they used to be. Then came COVID-19, that drove many people home with the alternative being watching the services online.

The fact is that many of the younger generation have lost faith in the church and see it as just another money-making enterprise, designed to relieve them of their cash.

What is true is that this declining attendance has financially impacted the church. The bottom line is the church cannot function without money and operates as a business. In fact, some young folks even say that many preachers are just there to make money without offering much in return. In some cases, that's true.

When you look at the lifestyles of many preachers in the USA, with their huge lavish mansions, fleets of fancy limousines, private jets and yachts, you really must sit up and take notice.

But no one forces the
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Trump's Anti-Immigrant Cruelty Is A National Scourge

BY BEN JEALOUS

Our neighbors are living in fear. And that's what the administration wants. They want people to be scared. So, we're combatting that by bringing the neighborhood together and saying, "you're not going to frighten us into complicity; you're not going to frighten us into hiding; we're one neighborhood, regardless of anyone's immigration status, and we're going to stay one neighborhood."

That is how Gabe Gonzalez, an organizer in Chicago's Rogers Park, described how his neighborhood has responded to Trump's immigration crackdown – both during his first administration and throughout the first months of his current one.

On Martin Luther King Day this year, I gave the keynote at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's annual MLK Day breakfast. It was Inauguration Day. The contrast between the hope in that room and the fear outside – especially among Chicago's immigrant communities – was sharp.

Reports had already confirmed that Donald Trump's new administration would make Chicago "ground zero" for an intense national sweep by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Raids were imminent.

The mass Day One sweep did not materialize quite as advertised by Trump's border czar Tom Homan. But thousands of

people were still swept up across the country that first week of the current Trump administration. The fear these actions are still creating is very real. And for good reason.

Since then, the Trump administration's deportation campaign has spread. What started in Chicago has become a national scourge. Families are being separated from Denver to Worcester. Parents are being arrested in front of their children. Kids coming home from school to find their homes ransacked and caregivers gone.

When armed agents grab someone without a warrant, haul them away from their family, and disappear without explanation – that is not just cruel. It is lawless. That is why community groups like Gabe Gonzalez's have set up rapid response teams, legal observers, and know-your-rights training. In some cases, their efforts have stopped ICE in its tracks.

The cruelty of these raids is matched only by their chaos. ICE has arrested green card holders. Detained US citizens. Deported people who know the US as their only real home to countries they barely remember – or had fled for safety. All of this is meant to send a message: no one is safe.

The message is loud. And so is the silence that often follows it.

People are afraid to report wage theft or unsafe working conditions. Parents fear school pickups or taking their kids to church on Sunday. Victims of

domestic violence stay silent, worried that asking for help will get them deported. And even documented immigrants live in fear.

This is not security. It is terror. And it is why so-called "sanctuary cities" like Chicago – and "sanctuary states" like Illinois have put policies in place making it illegal for local law enforcement to participate in immigration crackdowns. Police already face enough trust barriers with many of the communities they work in. That makes their job harder. Being part of Trump's anti-immigrant terror campaign would in some cases make it virtually impossible.

It also could be about to get even more dangerous. The Republican budget bill moving through Congress would supercharge ICE with \$80 billion in new funding. More agents. Fewer guardrails. And a leadership culture that seems more interested in punishment than justice.

And the strategy is broader than immigration. This is a movement that spreads fear, then exploits that fear to divide us – Black from Brown, citizen from immigrant, neighbor from neighbor. But as Gonzales and other organizers in Chicago have shown, solidarity still wins. This fight is about more than policy. It is about who we are. It is about remembering that every person – no matter where they were born – deserves dignity. Deserves due process; deserves

safety.

The poem engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." It makes no mention of any race, religion, or country of origin. It speaks to immigration making our country what it is. Making us stronger. Making us what Frederick Douglass called the most "perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen."

That is the American Way.

Back in January, at Rainbow PUSH, I said that when a nation is divided, we stop seeing our own reflections in our neighbors. But our neighbors are still there. They are helping care for our kids, growing our food, rebuilding our towns after floods and fires. They are us.

So, all of us must respond

Religious Opiate

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

congregation to give preachers their money, they all do it of their own volition. Give generously. Nevertheless, it does turn off some of the younger generation

as if it were happening to us – because one day, it could be.

That means fighting the cruelty with clarity. Standing shoulder to shoulder with immigrant communities – and sometimes, in front of them. Supporting Congress to pass good bills and reject bad ones that undermine due process.

Organizing non-violently. Voting. Showing up for our neighbors and the rule of law.

And it means calling this what it is – immoral, unjust, and defiantly at odds with the real American Way.

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



A Dangerous Precedent: Criminalizing Black Women's Leadership And Silencing Our Right To Serve

BY GLYNDA C. CARR

Earlier this month, Congresswoman LaMonica McIver of New Jersey's 10th District visited the Delaney Hall Detention Facility in Newark, joined by fellow Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman and Rob Menendez. Their goal was clear and constitutional: conduct oversight of a federally operated immigration detention center that has drawn widespread concern over its conditions and its connection in an alarming rise in unjust arrests, particularly of Black and Brown immigrants.

Instead of being met with transparency, these elected leaders were confronted by masked, militarized federal agents. What should have been a routine and lawful inspection escalated into a disturbing clash, one that ended with Congresswoman McIver charged with a crime for doing the very job the people elected her to do.

Let us be clear: this is not about law enforcement. It's about power - who holds it, who questions it, and who gets punished for doing so. These charges are not rooted in justice;

they are rooted in retaliation. This administration is sending a message: that when Black women lead with integrity and courage, they will be met not with respect, but with resistance and reprisal.

Delaney Hall is a facility that has already come under scrutiny for its treatment of detainees, many of whom are immigrants of color. In this climate, oversight is not just appropriate, it is imperative. Congresswoman McIver's presence there was an act of service to her constituents and to the democratic principles she swore to uphold.

The Department of Justice may attempt to frame this prosecution as impartial law enforcement. But we know better. When lawfully elected officials, especially Black women, are met with force, criminalized for oversight, and punished for defending their communities, it is not justice. It is authoritarianism.

This moment is not just about Congresswoman McIver. It's about the dangerous precedent this administration is setting, one where holding

institutions accountable is met with intimidation and punishment. It reflects a deeper, enduring pattern in this country: the policing of Black bodies and the systemic discrediting of Black leadership, especially when that leadership challenges injustice.

If visiting a detention facility can get a member of Congress charged, what hope do ordinary citizens have of being heard, protected, or treated with dignity?

At Higher Heights, we refuse to be silent. We know that Black women have always led movements for justice. We know the power of our voice, and we will not allow it to be silenced by political prosecutions or weaponized law enforcement.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Glynda C. Carr is the President and CEO of Higher Heights for America, the leading national organization dedicated to building Black women's political power and leadership. www.higherheightsforamerica.org.



who treat church as if it was a pariah as they shy away.

Apart from this, there are the many diversions that the younger generation is exposed to. Sitting for two or more hours listening to someone preach is simply not their cup of tea.

"Too much hellfire and brimstone every week, I'd rather not hear that." So, they stay away. Then there's apathy, as some people don't care about religion, as it's neither here nor there for them. "Oh, I've read parts of the Bible, and I have to wonder about those stories."

Then of course there are the non-believers - people who have absolutely no use for religion. "It's all hocus, pocus to me, after we depart this life there is nothing."

Even from the dawn of mankind, people believed in something. The Greeks had their Gods, and so did the Romans.

religious theme. When they are christening their babies, it's done in a church, and when that final journey is taken, it's also done in a church.

For some people, those occasions are the only time that they even enter a church. The church is our moral compass, our conscience, our trust, our faith, our refuge. True, there are some preachers who give church a bad name, but they are in the minority.

"A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints," stated Abigail Van Buren.

So opiate or not, religion is essential.

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.



Toni Braxton For Reggae Sumfest 2025

Grammy-winning R&B sensation Toni Braxton is set to headline International Night 2 of Reggae Sumfest 2025, bringing her signature soulful sound to Montego Bay's Catherine Hall Stadium on Saturday, July 19, according to festival CEO Josef "Joe" Bogdanovich.

Braxton, known for timeless hits like Un-Break My Heart, Breathe Again, and He Wasn't Man Enough, will bring a unique flavor to the usually high-energy reggae and dancehall festival. Her performance marks a major crossover moment, further solidifying Reggae Sumfest's reputation as a global cultural showcase.

"The inclusion of international R&B icon Toni Braxton takes this year's festival to another level," said Bogdanovich. "Her presence is a monumental crossover moment that underscores Sumfest's global pull."

Joining Braxton on



Toni Braxton is heading to Jamaica for Sumfest this July. (Toni Braxton/Instagram)

International Night 2 are top reggae acts including Tarrus Riley, Protoje, Fantan Mojah, Lila Ike, Bugle, I-Wayne, and Pressure, ensuring a night of lyrical depth and rich musical variety.

International Night 1, set for earlier in the week, will feature Jamaica's own Vybz Kartel, making waves with his highly anticipated appearance,

alongside Masicka, Govana, Jamal, D'Yani, Laden, Shaneil Muir, Jah Fabio, and Skeng, known for his high-octane performances. Ghanaian Afro-fusion artist Moliy, whose hit Shake It To The Max is lighting up Caribbean airwaves, will add an Afrobeat fusion to the lineup.

Set to run from July 13–19, 2025, Reggae Sumfest continues to be a cultural anchor

for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. For over 30 years, the festival has celebrated the heart of Jamaican music and identity, while evolving into a global attraction.

"Sumfest is more than a festival," Bogdanovich emphasized. "It's a celebration of everything Jamaica represents — the music, the food, the fashion, the energy, and the resilience. From the stage to the streets, it tells the story of Jamaica with pride and authenticity."

With the support of the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) and a strategic blend of international

outreach and grassroots promotions, Sumfest is increasingly positioning Jamaica as a hub of creativity, culture, and innovation. Bogdanovich noted that the festival has become a key cultural export, targeting not just local and regional fans, but also the Caribbean diaspora in the U.S., UK, Canada, and Africa.

"We're not just promoting a festival - we're promoting an experience, a cultural movement, and the true energy of Jamaica," he added.



Haitian-Led Thriller On Moïse Assassination Hits U.S. Theatres



A scene from 'July 7,' which is not just breaking the mold but redefining how Caribbean stories reach global audiences.

For the first time, a Haitian-led political thriller is telling the world what many in Haiti have long asked: Who killed President Jovenel Moïse?

"July 7: Who Killed the President?" premiered on May 16, in AMC theaters across the United States. Starring Raquel Pelissier and Haitian born star, Jimmy Jean-Louis, and directed by Robenson Lauvance, the film explores the 2021 assassination of Haiti's president through the eyes of a determined college student. Her research for a memoir takes a dark turn into a web of conspiracy, violence, and political betrayal. "This is more than a film—it's a moment of truth for Haiti," said Lauvance. "We're telling our story on our terms, with depth and dignity." Sunday, May 18th was Haitian flag day.

The film, shot in both Haiti and the U.S., is the first Haitian political drama to receive nationwide theatrical release in the United States—a major milestone for Caribbean cinema. AMC has also launched a community-driven campaign: the more requests a city receives, the more likely it is that July 7 will be added to local theater line-ups.

Confirmed screenings include:

- AMC Empire 25 (New York City)
- AMC Aventura Mall 24 (Florida)
- AMC Boston Common 19

(Massachusetts)

- AMC Phipps Plaza 14 (Atlanta)
- AMC Burbank 16 (Los Angeles)

The film arrives amid growing interest in Diaspora narratives, yet Haitian and Black independent filmmakers still face steep hurdles in U.S. film distribution. July 7 is not just breaking that mold - it's redefining how Caribbean stories reach global audiences.

Jovenel Moïse was a Haitian politician and entrepreneur, who served as the 43rd president of Haiti from 2017 until his assassination in 2021. He assumed the presidency in February 2017 after winning the November 2016 election. During his term, Haiti experienced widespread protests. In the early morning of 7 July 2021, Moïse was assassinated and his wife Martine was injured during an attack on their private residence in Pétion-Ville.

"This is a megaphone for our pain, our resilience, and our right to justice," Lauvance said. "We want to show the world our truth—and this time, you don't have to ask Hollywood's permission."

Audiences can request screenings in their cities by visiting the film's official website <https://july7movie.com/>

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Is Dancehall Making A Comeback in the U.S.? Packed Concerts Say Yes



Romain Virgo performing at Best Of The Best at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami on May 25, 2025. (Contributed image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

With Vybz Kartel, Beenie Man and the 'Best Of The Best' concerts all attracting strong turnouts in May, there is talk of a dancehall revival in the United States. The shows took place within a one week span in South Florida and New York.

Kartel, on a roll since his Freedom Street comeback show in Jamaica on New Year's Eve, performed at the Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise on May 17th. One week later, Beenie Man took the stage at UBS Arena in Long Island, his first show in the US in 10 years.

'Best Of The Best,' which had its 19th staging the following day at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami, drew an estimated 20,000 fans. It had Buju Banton, Beres Hammond, Romain Virgo and Marcia Griffiths among the headliners.

Veteran Jamaican booking agent, George Crooks, is based in New York. He has helped organize shows with Beres Hammond, Shaggy, Sean Paul and booked Beenie Man's comeback gig at the UBS Arena.

He is not surprised at the support the three shows got last month. "It shows that dancehall is strong, not just dancehall, but reggae. It also shows that people in the US are listening to Jamaican music," he said.

Ronnie Tomlinson, publicist for 'Best Of The Best,' agrees: "Despite concurrent events featuring artists like Beenie Man and Vybz Kartel in nearby locations or weeks apart, 'Best Of The Best' 2025 experienced unprecedented attendance," she noted. "The festival's diverse lineup, featuring legends such as Beres Hammond and Buju Banton, Marcia Griffiths, Wayne Wonder, Nadine Sutherland,

alongside Romain Virgo and Skinny Fabulous, and Chronic Law, ensured a unique and compelling experience that attracted fans from across the globe."

Dancehall enjoyed its most fruitful period during the 1990s when acts like Shabba Ranks, Mad Cobra, Shaggy, Patra sold gold and platinum albums for major American labels. With the exception of Koffee, the genre's new generation have struggled to duplicate that success.

In May, European show promoters pointed to the lack of quality roots artists coming out of Jamaica, which is needed to attract young fans.

"It is a fact that reggae music is almost dead in terms of audiences, because the new generations do not show even the slightest interest in the genre," said Spanish show promoter Julian Francisco Garcia Mancebo. "The young people of the Internet era no longer appreciate the musical quality, nor the musicians developing their virtuosity, nor the spiritual content of the lyrics, nor the revolutionary spirit."

A blend of old school roots-reggae and contemporary dancehall acts are scheduled to perform at the biggest reggae festivals in Europe this summer. Beenie Man, Shenseea, Inner Circle, Junior Kelly and Etana are billed for Summerjam in Germany in July.

In August, Koffee, Burning Spear, Ken Boothe, Steel Pulse, Shaggy, Tarrus Riley and Spice will be at Rototom Sunsplash in Spain.



Jamaican-Born 'Game of Thrones' Actor Lands Leading Roles In Two Major TV Projects

Jamaican-born actor Marcos James, best known to global audiences as White Rat in HBO's Emmy Award-winning epic *Game of Thrones*, is stepping into a new chapter of his career with two leading roles in upcoming television productions. The projects, backed by acclaimed directors and established production companies, signal a career-defining moment for the versatile performer.

James will take on the role of 'Pastor Mac' Smith-Cage in *The Religion Business*, a compelling docuseries set to premiere on Amazon and Apple TV on July 10. Directed by two-time Emmy Award winner Nathan Apffel (Fins), the seven-part series blends documentary and dramatized elements to explore the global evolution and commercialization of Christianity. James' character—a fictional religious leader and bestselling author—appears in the scripted segments, bringing to life a vibrant, polarizing figure inspired by modern-day celebrity preachers.

"Playing Pastor Mac was a transformative experience," James shared. "On my first day, the entire shoot focused solely

on my scenes. I stepped aside for a moment to center myself, and then dove in. The intensity of that role made it one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career."

The docuseries uses dramatized scenes to amplify its examination of faith and finance, spotlighting the growing influence - and profitability - of religion. James described his character as "a colorful, extremely charismatic showman" whose presence is designed to provoke thought and debate on the role of personality in the pulpit.

In a striking departure from the pulpit to pulse-pounding action, James has also wrapped production on *Cabin Pressure*, a made-for-television action thriller directed by Peter Sullivan (*The Sandman*, *The Merry Gentlemen*). In this production, James stars as Kody, a fierce, physical antagonist who brings an edge to the film's explosive storyline. The project reunites James with Hybrid Productions, the team behind *Keeping Up With The Joneses*, a Lifetime Movie Network series in which he appeared across two seasons alongside stars Vivica A. Fox and Academy Award



Jamaican born Marcos James as White Rat in HBO's *Game Of Thrones*. (PHOTO CREDIT- HBO)

nominee Eric Roberts.

"For any actor, repeat business is one of the highest compliments," James said. "Being brought back by Hybrid Productions for a lead role that pushed me physically and emotionally was a huge step. Working with fight director Cole McKay—who has collaborated with Hollywood legends like Tom Cruise—was an incredible experience."

While details of the

Cabin Pressure plot remain under wraps, the production is expected to premiere later this year on a soon-to-be-announced platform. James teased the action-packed nature of the film, praising its intense fight choreography and the high level of production value.

The dual releases mark a significant milestone for the actor, allowing him to showcase his range in two dramatically different roles - one is a fiery

spiritual leader, the other a commanding action figure.

"I've always wanted to immerse myself in roles that challenge me," James said. "These two characters couldn't be more different, but both demanded everything an actor has to offer. With them releasing in such close succession, I have the chance to show audiences and the industry what I can really do."

With additional credits including *My Mate Is a Vampire*, UK indie features *Reunion* and *Number 203*, and a starring role in the British stage production *The Mahabharata*, James' body of work reflects an actor with global range and growing impact. Represented by Greg Bekkers of Apollo Management, James is poised to reach new heights as he continues to expand his presence on the international stage.

"These roles are more than just opportunities - they're a signal that I've arrived at a new level in my career," James concluded. "And I'm just getting started."

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Vybz Kartel No-Show In Trinidad Sparks Promoter Backlash, Call For Industry Reform

The highly anticipated return of Jamaican dancehall star Adidja “Vybz Kartel” Palmer to the Trinidad and Tobago stage has ignited controversy, with the Trinidad and Tobago Promoters Association, (TTPA) now distancing itself from the failed event and warning of industry-wide fallout.

In a sharply worded statement released Monday, the TTPA expressed “extreme concern” over the circumstances surrounding the no-show of Kartel at the One Caribbean Musical Festival, (OCMF) this past weekend. The association clarified that the event’s promoter, JACHO Entertainment, is not a member of the TTPA and does not represent the broader promoter community in the twin-island republic.

“We do not speak for or on behalf of this group,” the association stated firmly. “However, when events fail, the impact ripples across the entire entertainment industry, harming our collective reputation and economic stability.”

The fallout began Saturday when Kartel’s management team announced the artist would not perform, citing the promoter’s failure to meet contractual obligations despite months of attempts to resolve issues.

“Vybz Kartel cannot in good conscience participate in an event where the organizers have not honored their basic commitments,” the team



Vybz Kartel has apologized to T&T fans for dropping out at the last minute. (Joseph Okpako/WireImage)

stated, noting the artist had been paid US\$950,000 of a US\$1.35 million contract, with an additional US\$150,000 reportedly sent to his legal team. The remaining funds, the promoters claim, were withheld due to local financial regulations prohibiting large cash disbursements.

In a direct message to fans via Instagram on May 31st, Kartel further revealed that he had clashed with the Trinidad and Tobago government after the promoter suggested he visit a youth center or school – something the artist says he never agreed to. “I’m an entertainer,” Kartel said. “My job is to perform for the people.”

He also accused the promoter of poor planning, alleging they ignored advice not to hold the event during Carnival

season. “Not every promoter can manage a Kartel show. It takes a lot,” the Grammy-nominated artist added, while expressing regret that fans were robbed of the chance to see him live.

The TTPA echoed Kartel’s sentiment, stating the failed event did not meet the high standards associated with Trinidad and Tobago’s global reputation for event production. The organization now wants to use the incident as a catalyst for reform.

“We believe it is time to broaden the dialogue with government and private sector

partners,” the TTPA said.

The group is calling for deep legislative changes specific to the entertainment and tourism sectors, aiming to better protect patrons, creatives, and producers from similar debacles in the future.

They’ve proposed resuming negotiations with the Office of the Attorney General to draft and pass modern legislation tailored to the needs of the industry.

Meanwhile, T&T Finance Minister Davendranath Tancoo says he is intrigued by the amount of foreign exchange being mentioned in relation to payment fees for artistes involved in the One Caribbean Music Festival and has requested an investigation. Saturday’s event was reportedly sold out, but the attendance was poor, as many patrons did not bother to attend due to Kartel’s absence and instead demanded a refund.

Videos of irate attendees venting their frustrations by storming the stage, throwing bottles or even dancing half-naked made their way around social media yesterday, as thousands tuned in to witness the unfolding debacle at the Queen’s Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain.

The organisers said they are

committed to addressing how patrons will be reimbursed. An official acknowledged that some form of compensation may be necessary and noted that this will be discussed and finalised in the coming days.

Ticket prices ranged from \$670 for general admission to \$2,700 for VVIP. Representatives of the US-based company said it will seek legal redress for the collapsed deal, as it is now at risk of losing millions of dollars. It said while it is now accepted that it will suffer a loss, it will try to recover as much money as possible from the local partner – Jacho Entertainment Ltd

Jacho Entertainment Ltd. is a San Fernando-based entertainment, events and promotions company that was incorporated in 2015. Its two directors are Odane Anderson, events promoter, and Petel Jones, senior accountant.

As the dust settles, what’s clear is that the Kartel controversy has reignited urgent questions about promoters accountability and regulatory gaps.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Tropicalfete To Host Free Caribbean Carnival Festival In Brooklyn

In celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month, Tropicalfete, Inc., in partnership with the Brooklyn Public Library, will bring the vibrant spirit of Caribbean culture to life with a free Carnival Festival on Sunday, June 29, 2025, starting at 2:00 PM. The celebration will unfold at the Brooklyn Public Library’s Central Library Plaza, located at 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238, at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

This family-friendly event is set to transform the heart of Brooklyn into a colorful Caribbean street celebration, featuring an exciting lineup of music, dance, and traditional artistry. Attendees will experience live performances including:

- Moko Jumbies
- Steelpan music
- Ole Mas characters
- Iron band demonstrations
- Masquerade and dance performances
- Folklore and limbo acts
- Live band entertainment.

A special highlight will be

a high-energy, rhythm-filled live performance by Quantum X, renowned for electrifying Caribbean music sets.

“This celebration is an opportunity to honor the creative spirit and traditions of the Caribbean while educating and uniting the broader community,” said Alton Aimable, President and Founder of Tropicalfete, Inc. “We invite everyone to experience the joy, artistry, and history of Caribbean carnival culture.”

Tropicalfete, Inc. is a respected cultural organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Caribbean heritage through the performing arts and educational initiatives. With the continued support of the Brooklyn Public Library, this year’s Carnival Festival promises to be a summer highlight and a powerful tribute to the diversity and creativity of the Caribbean diaspora.

Admission is free and open to all ages. For more details, email info@tropicalfete.com or call 646-504-3383.



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HIT & RUN FATALITY

VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN
Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

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

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

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

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit www.CrimeStoppers305.com and select “Submit a Tip”
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- Visit the App Store – Get P3 and sign into Miami for Tips

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

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

Time Honoured Caribbean Recipes To Try This Caribbean American Heritage Month

It's Caribbean American Heritage Month once again - and this year marks a special milestone: 20 years since former U.S. President George W. Bush officially recognized it by law. Few things bring people together like Caribbean cuisine, which transcends cultures, borders, and backgrounds. To honour the richness of the Caribbean diaspora, here are three time-honoured recipes to try this month and share with friends and family.

BUSS UP SHUT



Ingredients

- 4 cups all-purpose flour sifted
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 4 tsp Baking Powder
- 2 cups Water
- 1 cup Ghee melted
- 1/2 cup Ghee melted for baking pan or tawa.

Method

- In a bowl, combine flour, salt, baking powder.
- Make a well and add water.
- Knead into a soft dough. If dough is sticking to your hand and the bowl, simply dust with 1 tbsp of flour at a time. Knead for about 5 minutes.
- Using your hands, coat the dough in ghee, cover with a damp cloth and let rest for 30 minutes.
- Remove cloth and divide dough into 4 balls.
- Rub each ball with ghee, cover and let rest for 5 minutes.
- Place one ball on a floured surface, sprinkle top with flour and roll into a 10-inch-wide disc using a rolling pin.
- Rub ghee onto the dough, ensuring to completely cover the top with ghee.
- Lightly sprinkle flour over the ghee.
- Take a knife and cut the dough from the centre to the end.
- Roll clockwise into a cone. Tuck the end into the bottom of the cone. Place it on the counter and using one of your fingers, push the middle of the ball all

the way down to the bottom of the cone. Do this with the other balls.

- Coat balls with ghee, cover with a damp cloth and let rest for 45 minutes.
- Place one ball onto a floured surface. Sprinkle top with flour and press into a small flat disc.
- Roll out into a 10-inch-wide disc.
- Heat griddle or tawa over low to medium heat.
- Once heated, brush with ghee. Place dough onto the hot griddle tawa.
- Brush ghee all over the dough, ensuring to brush the edges to prevent it from drying out.
- Using a spatula, immediately flip and brush ghee onto any dry spots the other side may have.
- Allow to cook for 1 minute before flipping again. Using your spatula, begin to spin the roti and gently beat it (or buss up).
- Flip roti one last time.
- Continue to spin and gently beat for 30 seconds.
- Once cooked, remove and immediately place in a sealed, insulated container lined with cloth (this will prevent it from sweating).
- Allow roti to rest for 15 minutes. Roti is now ready to easily be split into 2-3 pieces and served warm with curries, stews or even butter or nut-butter.

JAMAICAN JERK CHICKEN – AT HOME



Ingredients

- 6 lbs. chicken legs and thighs
- Salt to taste
- 5 tbs dry jerk seasoning
- 1 bottle of wet jerk seasoning
- 1/4 cup of soya sauce
- 1 small scotch bonnet pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp all spice
- 1 dozen pimento seeds
- 2 cloves crushed garlic

Method

- Clean chicken and wash with

lemon.

- Put washed chicken in a bowl.
- Add all the ingredients.
- With your hand, mix all the ingredients and ensure each piece of chicken is covered.
- Put all the seasoned chicken in a zip lock bag to marinate in the refrigerator for one day.
- Remove from the refrigerator and put seasoned chicken in the zip lock bag in the freezer for one week.
- After a week, remove chicken from the freezer and allow the seasoned chicken to thaw at room temperature.
- After chicken is fully thawed, bake chicken in gas or electric oven or grill on a charcoal grill, the weather permitting.
- Serve with Rice and peas, boiled plantain, steam cabbage and carrots.

CURRY CHICKEN



Ingredients

Marinade

- 2 -3 pounds chicken skinned thighs cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cayenne
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon Lemon Juice
- 1 teaspoon white rum
- 2 teaspoons white vinegar.

Chicken

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2-3 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 large onion diced
- 1 cinnamon sticks
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- fresh or dried thyme
- 1-teaspoon cumin spice
- 1 teaspoon of turmeric
- 1-teaspoon black pepper.
- 2 cups of cubed potatoes
- 3-4 cups chicken broth/water
- Salt to taste
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper

Instructions

- Wash chicken and marinate with rum, lemon juice and

vinegar.

- Rinse and season in a large bowl with salt, garlic, thyme and cayenne.
- Mix chicken with a spoon or with hands until they are well coated, set aside in the fridge and marinate for 30 minutes or overnight.
- Heat a large saucepan with oil, and add onions, garlic, thyme, all spice, smoked paprika, cinnamon sticks and let chicken run off all water.
- To a small bowl, add curry powder, turmeric and cumin and a bit of water and mix to a paste.
- Peel potatoes and dice.
- Once chicken dries down, remove and add oil to pan.

- Add curry paste along with chicken bouillon, potatoes, whole pepper, and add the chicken back into the pan and coat all items together in the curry mixture.
- Let all fry in together.
- Once it's fried in, add in some of the water or broth and let it boil until sauce thickens and chicken and potatoes are cooked through.
- Adjust for salt and pepper consistency.
- Simmer and serve hot.

Bon Appetite

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Nigerian Heritage Chef Brings Caribbean-Inspired Steakhouse 'Maroon' To Las Vegas Strip

Acclaimed chef and James Beard Award winner, Nigerian roots, Kwame Onwuachi, is bringing his celebrated culinary storytelling to Las Vegas with the launch of Maroon, a Caribbean-inspired steakhouse opening at Sahara Las Vegas. Known for blending heritage with haute cuisine, Onwuachi's new venture reimagines the traditional American steakhouse through a diasporic lens, infusing dishes with West African, Jamaican, and Creole flavors.



Acclaimed chef and James Beard Award winner, Nigerian roots, Kwame Onwuachi, is bringing his celebrated culinary storytelling to Las Vegas with the launch of Maroon. (Facebook image/Chef Kwame Onwuachi)

a Black chef-owner rooted in Caribbean heritage.

Onwuachi, whose New York eatery Tatiana was twice named as NYC's top restaurant by The New York Times, aims to redefine the luxury dining narrative in Las Vegas. "It's not just about being first," he said. "It's about impact - opening the door and keeping it open."

Maroon opens later this year as the Sahara Las Vegas's signature culinary centerpiece.

- *Rewritten from Travel + Leisure*



Can We Talk?

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

Florida Among Top Five States With High Parkinson's Disease Death Rate

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Parkinson's disease has notched a grim high mortality rate in Florida, which is fifth among U.S. states, according to a study conducted by Las Vegas-based personal injury lawyers Ladah Injury and Car Accident Attorneys.

The law firm analyzed Parkinson's disease mortality rate between 2018 and 2022 by using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC).

Parkinson's disease is a movement disorder of the nervous system that worsens over time. The nervous system is a network of nerve cells that controls many parts of the body, including movement. Parkinson's disease is most common among the elderly people.

Florida is fifth among U.S. states with the highest Parkinson's death rate at 13.69 per 100,000 residents from 2018 to 2022, which is 16 percent above the national average.

Florida reported an average of 2,967 Parkinson's deaths annually, with its five-year high of 3,171 deaths in 2021 and its lowest of 2,666 deaths in 2019.

Maine is No. 1 with 15.99 per 100,000 residents, followed by West Virginia with 14.02, Vermont with 13.98 and 13.71 for New Hampshire. Maine is 36 percent above the national average and 19 percent for West Virginia.

According to the CDC, symptoms of Parkinson's disease include noticeable tremor in one hand, foot and the jaw.

The condition worsens with stiffness, slowing of movement and trouble with balance that raises the risk of falls, and speech may become soft or slurred. There's no cure for Parkinson disease, but medication might help alleviate some of the symptoms, and sometimes doctors suggest surgery to control parts of the brain to alleviate symptoms.

People with Parkinson's



A 2010 study by a group of medical experts suggested Hispanics and whites have a higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease, but another analysis said people of Afro-Caribbean and Indian descents living in the United Kingdom were found to have an increased risk of atypical Parkinson's which can cause early symptoms of dementia.

A third research in the United States found higher rates of Parkinson's dementia in African American and Hispanic populations, stemming from repeated head trauma. Some celebrities suffered from Parkinson's disease including boxing great Muhammad Ali and actor Michael J. Fox.

Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1984, and the symptoms became noticeable overtime including the time when he lit the torch visibly shaking at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Ali died in 2016.



Florida Medicaid Patients At Risk As House Votes To Defund Planned Parenthood

Thousands of low-income Medicaid patients in Florida face a devastating loss of health care access following a recent vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to "defund" Planned Parenthood. If the bill advances in the Senate and becomes law, it could result in the closure of up to 200 Planned Parenthood health centers nationwide, significantly impacting over one million Americans who rely on these clinics for essential, often lifesaving, care.

While Florida's 17 Planned Parenthood centers do not receive federal health care funding and are not currently slated for closure, the consequences of this bill could still be severe. The state's strict Medicaid eligibility requirements already limit access, and thousands of Medicaid patients in Florida who rely on Planned Parenthood for services such as STI testing, cancer screenings, wellness visits, and birth control could be left without care.

"If this bill goes through, the impacts will be dire for patients in Florida and across the country," said Barbara Zdravceky, CEO and President of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. "Health departments simply cannot handle the overload. Without Planned Parenthood, cancers will go undetected, STIs will go untreated, and patients won't even get basic wellness checks. This bill will have real-world, life-changing consequences."

Alexandra Mandado, CEO and President of Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida, echoed these concerns. "When lawmakers force health centers to shut down, patients don't just go somewhere else — they often go without care. This is especially true for low-income and rural communities where transportation, time off work, and long wait times already present significant barriers."

Despite Planned Parenthood health centers in Florida not receiving direct federal funding, the organization still serves a large number of Medicaid patients, a group that would be cut off from affordable care under the House-backed bill. Across the state, Medicaid supports children, seniors, and funds nearly half of all births, highlighting its crucial role in Florida's public health infrastructure.

Moreover, the proposed defunding disproportionately impacts reproductive health care access. A significant majority of the Planned Parenthood centers at risk of closure provide abortion services, as well as vital preventive care like breast exams, Pap smears, and contraception.

Key Impacts and Facts:

- 55% of Planned Parenthood patients rely on federally funded programs like Medicaid.
- 64% of Planned Parenthood clinics are in medically underserved or rural areas.
- Planned Parenthood provides over 9 million health services annually to more than 2 million patients.
- New research from the Guttmacher Institute shows that no other provider network could absorb the volume of patients displaced by Planned Parenthood closures.
- One in three women in the U.S. has visited a Planned Parenthood center for care.
- 73% of Americans, including 55% of Trump voters, oppose defunding Planned Parenthood.
- Medicaid continues to receive broad bipartisan support across the U.S.

As debate now moves to the Senate, public health leaders and patient advocates are urging lawmakers to consider the far-reaching consequences of gutting a key component of the nation's health care safety net.



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Call Him Global Ambassador Bolt

Jamaica has taken its global tourism strategy to the next level with the official appointment of sprint legend Usain Bolt as the country's Global Tourism Ambassador. The announcement, made by Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, solidifies Bolt's long-standing role as a cultural icon and unofficial representative of Jamaica on the world stage.

The historic designation recognizes Bolt's extraordinary influence and the role he has played in elevating Jamaica's image worldwide. As Global Tourism Ambassador, the world's fastest man will front a fully integrated international marketing campaign to promote the island's tourism, culture, and heritage through digital content and global appearances.

"Usain Bolt has been Jamaica's unofficial ambassador for years through his extraordinary athletic achievements and magnetic personality," said Minister Bartlett. "This appointment formalizes what the world already



Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett (R) pauses for a photo opportunity with Minister of Culture, Gender, Sports and Entertainment, Hon. Olivia Grange (2nd L), sprint legend Hon. Usain Bolt (1st R) and Director of Tourism, Donovan White (L) at the Jamaica Tourist Board's 70th Anniversary Cocktail at Devon House, where Usain was announced as Jamaica's Global Tourism Ambassador. (Contributed image)

knows – that Usain embodies the spirit, resilience, and excellence that defines Jamaica. His influence extends far beyond the track, and we're excited to channel that power toward building our nation's future."

The announcement was made during the Jamaica Tourist Board's 70th anniversary cocktail reception at Devon House, where Bolt shared a lighthearted moment with attendees and expressed his enthusiasm for the

new role.

Bolt, who still holds the world records in both the 100m and 200m sprints, has consistently demonstrated his love for Jamaica in public and private life. Now, with this official ambassadorship, he will promote the island's stunning beaches, world-class hospitality, vibrant music, and rich culinary traditions on the global stage.

Donovan White, Jamaica's

Director of Tourism, highlighted Bolt's unmatched appeal: "Usain's global appeal is unprecedented for any Jamaican figure. His endorsement of Jamaica as a destination carries weight that traditional marketing simply cannot match. We expect this partnership to significantly boost our tourism numbers and international profile."

In his new role, Bolt will represent Jamaica at international

events, engage in media campaigns, and use his expansive digital footprint to spotlight Jamaica's cultural vibrance, from reggae to jerk cuisine, helping draw visitors from key tourism markets.

The move is expected to not only enhance Jamaica's global brand visibility but also deliver tangible economic benefits for the island's tourism sector.

Princess Hotels Jamaica Launches Star-Studded Euphoria Weekend

This summer, Jamaica will radiate with beauty, music, and wellness as Princess Hotels & Resorts Jamaica unveils its highly anticipated Euphoria Weekend, a luxury four-day escape set for June 25–29, 2025. Hosted across the stunning Princess Senses The Mangrove and Princess Grand Jamaica properties in Green Island, this exclusive event blends celebrity glamour with the vibrant soul of the island.

Presented in collaboration with Miss Universe Jamaica and the Jamaica Tourist Board, Euphoria Weekend promises an unforgettable celebration of Caribbean elegance. Attendees can expect world-class DJ sets, fashion showcases, wellness

experiences, and luxe beachfront parties featuring a star-studded lineup including:

- DJ D-Nice, the creator of Club Quarantine
- Spinderella, iconic DJ from Salt-N-Pepa
- DJ Kiss, known for performances at the Oscars and Good Morning America
- DJ M.O.S., a renowned NYC DJ featured at global events
- The Miss Universe Jamaica 2025 contestants, including 2024 titleholder Rachel Silvera

The festivities begin with The Illusion Welcome Party on June 25, featuring sets by DJ Kiss and Spinderella, complete with handcrafted cocktails, desserts, Jamaican cuisine, and lively hookah lounges under the stars. On June 26, the spotlight turns to the DJ D-Nice Dream Island Party, offering guests an exclusive

sunset-to-moonlight dance escape on a private island.

June 27 features the empowering "RIP the Runway with the Queens" session followed by a glamorous Miss Universe Jamaica fashion show, while June 28 is devoted to wellness and beauty at Spa Princess and the beach. Guests will enjoy hydrotherapy sessions, guided wellness activities, a sizzling swimsuit fashion show, and the final "Touch of Purple" Beach Party.

Packages for Euphoria Weekend range from Silver to Diamond, offering varied room categories, amenities, and access to all scheduled events. For complete pricing, packages, and event details, visit: princess-hotels.com/en/x-miss-universe-jamaica/

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June is Men's Health Awareness Month—a time to put your well-being first. Whether you're chasing the kids, coaching the team, or simply showing up for the people you love, staying healthy helps you keep doing what you do best. A quick checkup today can help ensure you're there for all of life's moments tomorrow.

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Miami International Airport To Break Ground On \$600M Concourse K Expansion

The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners has officially greenlit the construction of Concourse K at Miami International Airport, (MIA) - a landmark expansion project that will transform one of the nation's busiest air travel hubs. This new development is a central component of MIA's ambitious \$9 billion "Future-Ready Modernization in Action" plan.

With a projected investment of \$600.6 million, the Concourse K project will introduce six new gates, a ground support equipment maintenance facility, upgraded baggage handling systems, and critical airfield infrastructure improvements to support Miami's surging air travel and cargo demands.

"MIA has not seen a terminal expansion since 2007, making this a truly transformative milestone for our airport," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. "Concourse K will increase capacity, create thousands of jobs, and reaffirm MIA's status as a premier global gateway."

The expansion is strategically designed to position MIA to accommodate up to 77 million passengers and 5 million tons of cargo by 2040. The project also seeks to attain LEED Silver certification, underscoring its commitment to sustainable infrastructure.

Concourse K Project

Highlights:

- Design and construction of six new contact gates
- Construction of a connected aircraft apron and jet fuel hydrant system
- A new ground support equipment maintenance facility
- Installation of two baggage make-up carousels
- Integration of Central and South Terminal baggage systems
- Sustainable infrastructure with a target of LEED Silver certification

MIA recorded nearly 56 million passengers and more than 3 million tons of freight in 2024, reflecting record-breaking demand and underscoring the urgency for capacity expansion and operational enhancements.

Construction is expected to begin following a groundbreaking ceremony this summer, with completion targeted for Spring 2029. The Lemartec-NV2A Joint Venture, LLC will serve as the general contractor, while Perez & Perez Architects Planners, Inc. has been selected as the lead architect.

Concourse K represents a bold step forward in MIA's modernization journey — enhancing service, safety, and efficiency while solidifying Miami's role as a vital link in the global transportation network.

NOAA Predicts Active 2025 Hurricane Season, Warns Public To Prepare Early

As the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season approaches, forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA) are predicting another above-average year, though not as devastating as the record-breaking 2024 season, which ranked as the third-costliest in history due to deadly storms like Beryl, Helene, and Milton.

Released on May 22, NOAA's official seasonal outlook gives a 60% chance of an above-normal season, 30% chance of a near-normal one, and only a 10% chance of a quieter-than-average year. The forecast predicts 13 to 19 named storms, with 6 to 10 hurricanes, and 3 to 5 major hurricanes - defined as Category 3

or higher with winds of 110 mph or more.

"Everything is in place for an above average season," said Ken Graham, Director of the National Weather Service. Speaking from Gretna, Louisiana, during a press conference marking the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Graham pointed to warmer-than-normal Atlantic waters as the primary driver of increased storm activity.

Though ocean temperatures are not as extreme as in 2024, they remain high enough to fuel intense storms. Still, NOAA emphasized that it does not expect the same level of chaos seen last year.

Key Forecast Highlights:

- 13–19 named storms
 - 6–10 hurricanes
 - 3–5 major hurricanes
 - 60% chance of above-normal activity
 - June 1 – November 30 hurricane season duration
- Acting NOAA Administrator Laura Grimm reassured the public about NOAA's readiness: "The hurricane center is fully staffed and we're ready to go. We are making this a top priority for this administration."

Despite recent staffing and

Andrea	Humberto	Olga
Barry	Imelda	Pablo
Chantal	Jerry	Rebekah
Dexter	Karen	Sebastien
Erin	Lorenzo	Tanya
Fernand	Melissa	Van
Gabrielle	Nestor	Wendy

budget cuts at NOAA under the Department of Government Efficiency, officials stressed that forecasting and emergency preparedness services will remain unaffected.

Public Urged To Prepare Early

With an active season on the horizon, NOAA and emergency

agencies are urging residents and business owners in hurricane-prone areas—particularly along the Gulf Coast, Caribbean, and Eastern Seaboard—to begin preparations now. This includes developing emergency plans, stocking disaster supply kits, securing properties, and staying updated through official forecast sources like the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

As 2025 ushers in what could be another high-impact season, experts caution that it only takes one landfalling storm to cause disaster, and early readiness remains the best defense.



How Companies Can Prepare For Disasters In 2025

As businesses in the state and in the US brace for another hurricane season and other potential hazards, organizations are being urged to take proactive steps to ensure operational continuity and employee safety. The Ready Business program, developed by Ready.gov and FEMA, provides a comprehensive toolkit to help business leaders prepare for the unexpected.

From power outages to hurricanes, inland flooding to severe winds, the Ready Business Toolkit series offers hazard-specific guides to help companies build tailored preparedness strategies. These toolkits include actionable steps such as conducting risk assessments,

developing emergency response plans, and training staff to respond effectively during emergencies.

Creating A Business Preparedness Plan

A business preparedness plan is not just about disaster response—it's about resilience. The Ready Business framework helps companies address key areas such as:

- Emergency communications planning
- IT support and data recovery
- Business continuity planning
- Employee safety and accountability

Ready.gov provides template plans and resources that can be

adapted to any business size or industry. These tools are especially important for small and medium-sized enterprises that may lack in-house emergency management expertise.

Training and Exercises: A Must for Readiness

Preparedness isn't just about having a plan- it's about making sure everyone knows how to use it. The program stresses the importance of training, drills, and exercises to test plans, uncover weaknesses, and build confidence among employees. Whether through tabletop exercises or full-scale simulations, practice makes the difference in how effectively your team responds in a real

emergency.

Steps To Get Started

If your business hasn't yet developed a plan - or is reviewing existing strategies—Ready Business recommends taking the following steps:

1. Assess risks specific to your location and industry
2. Engage key staff in planning discussions
3. Use the Ready Business toolkits to develop hazard-specific responses
4. Schedule regular training and plan reviews
5. Stay informed through local emergency alerts and official guidance

Additional Resources For Recovery And Resilience

In addition to planning tools, Ready Business offers a range of resources to support incident management, resource coordination, and hazard prevention. By taking action today, business leaders can protect employees, safeguard assets, and strengthen their organization's ability to bounce back stronger after disaster strikes.

For more information and to access the Ready Business Toolkits, visit: www.ready.gov/business



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SPORTS NEWS



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GSL Returns For Second Year To Guyana With ExxonMobil Backing

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

The Global Super League, (GSL), returns to Guyana for its second season next month and organizers anticipate one week of excitement from five teams in the T20 tournament - which is sponsored by petroleum giant, ExxonMobil.

Native son and former West Indies captain, Sir Clive Lloyd, is chairman of the GSL for which the defending champion is Rangpur Riders from Bangladesh. He told Caribbean Today that the inaugural competition exceeded expectations.

“The Global Super League in 2024 was a great success and produced some great cricket while also showcasing Guyana as a fantastic destination for both sport and eco-tourism,” Sir Clive said. “The four visiting teams all really enjoyed their time in Guyana and were very keen to return for the 2025 season. It was pleasing that we were able to invite back the 2024 champions, the Rangpur Riders from the Bangladesh Premier League, to compete in the 2025 tournament.”

This year’s tournament features five elite franchises:

- Guyana Amazon Warriors (West Indies) – 2024 Caribbean

- Premier League finalists
- Central Stags (New Zealand) – Super Smash champions
- Dubai Capitals (United Arab Emirates) – ILT20 champions
- Hobart Hurricanes (Australia) – Big Bash League champions
- Rangpur Riders (Bangladesh) – Defending GSL champions

The hosts also competed in the first season.

All matches will be played at Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana’s capital. Central Districts play Dubai Capitals and Rangpur Riders take on Guyana Amazon Warriors on July 10th, opening day.

The round robin format is similar to last year, with the top two teams qualifying for the final which takes place on July 17th.

MATCH SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 10: 10:00 AM: Central Stags vs Dubai Capitals and 7:00 PM: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Rangpur Riders

Friday, July 11: 10:00 AM: Hobart Hurricanes vs Dubai Capitals and 7:00 PM: Central Stags vs Guyana Amazon Warriors

Sunday, July 13: 10:00 AM: Rangpur Riders vs Hobart Hurricanes and 7:00 PM: Dubai Capitals vs Guyana Amazon



The Rangpur Riders, the inaugural GSL champions return, for the 2025 tourney. (GSL image)

Warriors

Tuesday, July 15: 7:00 PM: Hobart Hurricanes vs Central Stags

Wednesday, July 16: 10:00 AM: Dubai Capitals vs Rangpur Riders and 7:00 PM: Guyana

Amazon Warriors vs Hobart Hurricanes

Thursday, July 17: 10:00 AM: Rangpur Riders vs Central Stags

Friday, July 18
• 7:00 PM: Final – First Place vs Second Place

West Indies Captain Hayley Matthews Climbs To No. 2 In ICC T20I Batting Rankings

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews soared to second place in the ICC Women’s T20I Batting Rankings, matching her career-best position after an outstanding series against England.

Matthews was named Player of the Series after amassing 177 runs across the three-match contest, including an unbeaten century in the opener at Canterbury. Her stellar performance lifted her past India’s Smriti Mandhana and Australia’s Tahlia McGrath, reclaiming the No. 2



West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has surged to a career best-equalling second place in the ICC Women’s T20I Batting Rankings. (CMC image)

spot she last held in December 2023.

Now on 765 rating points, Matthews trails the top-ranked

Lloyd, a left-handed batsman, is considered the greatest captain in the history of Test cricket. He led the West Indies to unprecedented success in the five-day format from the late 1970s to his retirement in 1984. He also captained them to World Cup victories in 1975 and 1979.

Born in Georgetown, he does not see the GSL as a rival to the Caribbean Premier League, which was established in 2013 by Cricket West Indies, who are also organizers of the Guyana tournament.

“The GSL may be in the same time zone as the CPL and played in one of the CPL’s host nations, but it is a very different tournament that is about global competition,” he noted. “The Guyana Amazon Warriors are proud founding members of the CPL and that will continue to be a focus for the franchise going forward.”



Beth Mooney of Australia by 29 points.

Meanwhile, Deandra Dottin, who did not feature in the England series, dropped nine places to 20th with 609 points, while opener Quina Joseph slipped 11 places to 40th with 492 points.

Reflecting on her success, Matthews credited solid preparation and experience in global T20 leagues for her form. “Having firm plans and playing to my strengths have helped a lot,” she said. “I’ve learned more about my game and was able to execute well.”

The West Indies women now shift focus to the ODI series against England at Derby.

- *Rewritten from CMC News*





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Jamaican Footballer Dies Suddenly During Scrimmage

Jamaican football fans are mourning the sudden loss of one of its stalwarts after former Jamaican Premier League, (JPL), player, Hugh Howell, tragically collapsed and died on Sunday, May 25, 2025, during a casual scrimmage.

Howell, 39, was widely respected for his rugged style of play and leadership on the pitch. He played as a hard-tackling midfielder, earning a reputation as an "enforcer" during his professional career with Waterhouse FC and Humble Lion.

He was a key figure in Waterhouse FC's 2005-2006 championship-winning team, and later joined Humble Lion in

2013, helping transform the Clarendon-based side into serious title contenders.

After retiring from professional football, Howell remained connected to the sport, sharing his knowledge as a youth coach at Vere Technical High School.

Tributes poured in from across Jamaica's football community following his untimely passing.

Michael Ricketts, president of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), expressed his sorrow in a social media post: "So sad. Hugh and I had a good relationship.



The former Jamaican Premier League, (JPL), player tragically collapsed and died on Sunday, May 25, 2025, during a casual scrimmage.

RIP my friend."

Waterhouse coach Marcel Gayle remembered Howell as a loyal and hardworking player. "He left Excelsior and came straight to us. He was a hard worker, no-nonsense player and

played for the shirt. He will be missed."

Andrew Price, who coached Howell at Humble Lion, also paid tribute: "Condolences to the family of the man called 'Gorilla'. He was a great servant of the game. RIP Balla."

Howell's passion and dedication to Jamaican football,

both as a player and mentor, leave behind a legacy that will be remembered by teammates, coaches, and fans alike.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

- *Rewritten from CMC News*

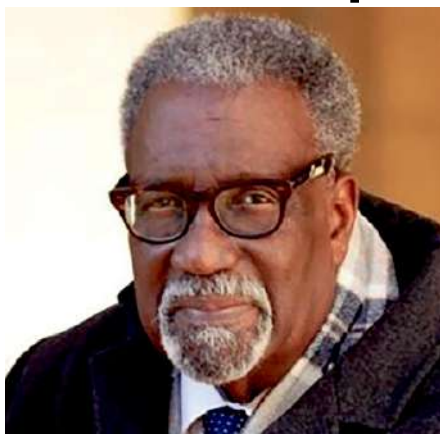


Sir Clive Lloyd Questions West Indies' Choice Of Test Vice-Captain

Legendary former West Indies captain Sir Clive Lloyd has criticized Cricket West Indies' (CWI) decision to appoint 33-year-old Jomel Warrican as Test vice-captain, suggesting a younger player should have been chosen to build for the future.

The comments come days after CWI named fellow Barbadian Roston Chase, also 33, as the new Test captain, making him the 10th Barbadian to lead the regional side. Warrican, with 19 Test caps, was announced as his deputy.

The Guyana-born Sir Clive pointed to 26-year-old Trinidadian wicketkeeper-batsman Joshua Da Silva - one of six interviewed for the captaincy - as a more suitable option for the vice-captaincy role.



Sir Clive pointed to 26-year-old Trinidadian wicketkeeper-batsman Joshua Da Silva - one of six interviewed for the captaincy - as a more suitable option for the vice-captaincy role. (CMC image)

Speaking on WESN TV's Face of Sports, Lloyd encouraged younger players not to lose heart. "Keep the faith," he said, recalling his mother's advice: "What is for you is for you."

He added, "That is where

Cricket West Indies went wrong... You should have gone for a 26-year-old so that in two years' time he would have all of that experience and then he'd be able to take over the mantle. That is what I would have done."

- *Rewritten from CMC News*



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