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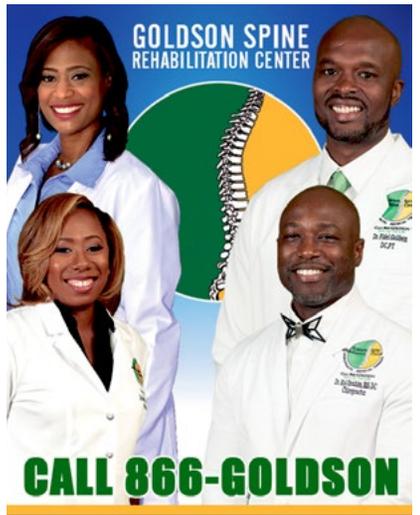
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IT'S GO TIME

Often dismissed, ignored and counted simply as part of the Black voting populace in the US, Caribbean-American voters in Florida are now emerging as the difference makers for the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in this crucial general elections where it is now "go time."

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A Crisis Like No Other For The Caribbean - IMF

BY PETER RICHARDS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the Caribbean has been “massive,” particularly for tourism-dependent countries in the region, and it’s a crisis like no other.

In an exclusive interview with the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), IMF Deputy Managing Director, Tao Zhang, said that while the pandemic has been well-contained, particularly in smaller island-nations like those in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), most countries moved quickly to restrict inbound travel and adopt containment and mitigation measures.

“The shutdown of the tourism sector, which accounts for anywhere from 50 to 90 per cent of output and employment in the tourism-dependent Caribbean economies, and other lockdown measures had ripple effects, with a sharp contraction in economic activity,” Zhang told CMC. “Lower commodity prices are also having a major impact on Caribbean commodity exporters through a decline in exports and fiscal revenues.”

He said since that since

the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington-based financial institution has issued on two occasions, its World Economic Outlook (WEO) and its Global Financial Stability Report, in April and June, respectively. In the April WEO Report, the projection for global output for 2020 contracted substantially by three per cent from 3.3 per cent. In the June report, the projection was further revised downwards to 4.9 per cent.

Zhang said that global trade is expected to collapse by nearly 12 per cent in 2020, adding “certainly you would agree that this is not encouraging figures for the Caribbean.”

He said in the latest IMF WEO published this month, global growth is projected at minus 4.4 per cent in 2020.

“With the global recovery expected to be long, uneven, and highly uncertain, the outlook for tourism and growth in the Caribbean is not very promising,” said Zhang. “Following an expansion of one per cent in 2019, we are expecting a contraction of 12 per cent in 2020, the deepest in half a century, followed by growth of five per cent in 2021. For many countries, output is not expected



IMF Deputy Managing Director, Tao Zhang

to return to pre-crisis levels until at least 2023-24.”

The IMF executive noted that the possibility that tourists from key source markets in North America and Europe do not return for the upcoming tourism high season poses substantial downside risks, warning “many countries in the Caribbean may be faced with large near-term external financing needs.”

Late last month, president of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. William Warren Smith, said that small economies with no reserve

currencies, sustainable advances in standards of living must be driven by export expansion. Smith, who heads the region’s premier financial institution, also noted that in the region, economic growth, over the last two decades, has been volatile and well below the average for small states.

Zhang told CMC that for a strong and inclusive recovery in the Caribbean region to occur, the first thing that has to happen is support of the health sector and vulnerable households. He said select sectors or firms will continue to need support in order to mitigate the loss of human capital from prolonged unemployment.

“Beyond the pandemic, I agree with Dr. Smith that exports of goods and services will be an important engine of growth, given the small domestic market most countries in the region have,” Zhang said. “And the prospects for trade-led growth could be enhanced by greater inter- and intra-regional integration. You may recall that this was one of the issues discussed at last year’s high-level Caribbean Forum in Barbados. Of course, many Caribbean countries are well known for their tourism offerings. There

may be scope to move up the value chain in tourism and into areas like medical tourism), and also in agriculture.”

But the IMF official said that diversification into entirely new areas also must be explored, though this is challenging.

“All of this will require investment in infrastructure, technology, logistics, and marketing; enhancing education and labor skills; and creating a more nurturing business environment to promote entrepreneurship,” he said, noting that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) also stands to benefit from further economic and institutional integration and policy coordination.

Zhang said that the IMF will continue to advice on sound policy for macroeconomic stability, which is key for investment and growth. He told CMC that since beginning of the pandemic, the IMF has swiftly provided about one billion US dollars in financing to eight Caribbean countries, namely the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



LIAT Gives Several Staffers The Boot

Cash-strapped Caribbean airline, LIAT, which is hoping to return to the skies on November 1st, has given several temporarily laid-off staff members, including pilots, flight attendants and engineers, the boot.

The court appointed administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, in a letter sent to one of the staffer with the airline, noted that the position had been made redundant.

“Further to our correspondent to you with respect of your temporary layoff we now write to you advising of the administration’s decision that effective November 20th, 2020, your employment with LIAT (1974) Limited has been made redundant,” according to the letter, which was read out on Antigua OBSERVER Radio on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020.

Seaforth, in the letter, reminded the workers that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused a major downturn in the economy and has had a detrimental impact on the airline, which is now in the process of being recapitalized and owing in excess of EC\$100 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) to its creditors. He said that while LIAT recognizes its financial obligations to the retrenched workers, all applicable entitlements will

be discussed with the relevant bargaining trade union for resolution and finalization prior to the workers being notified of the amount due to them.

Seaforth added in the letter, that in light of the company’s current financial state, the payment of any indebtedness cannot be made at this time and is dependent on the outcome of the court supervisory restructuring process.

The Antigua and Barbuda government announced early last week that the airline, whose major shareholders had included Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica, will return to the skies on November 1. Earlier in October, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne said that his administration is prepared to “collapse” the regional airline if it does not emerge as a “new and lean,” entity as part of the re-organizational plans.

Prior to its collapse, LIAT flew to 21 destinations, operating an average of 112 daily flights within a complex network combining profitable and uneconomic routes. Airline observers said that these 39 unprofitable flights were to 18 territories.

- Edited from CMC.



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Difference Makers? - Caribbean-American Voters In Florida Could Help Democrats Win White House

Often dismissed, ignored and counted simply as part of the Black voting populace in the US, Caribbean-American voters in Florida are now emerging as the difference makers for the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in this crucial general elections where it is now “go time.”

The Pew Center for Research says black immigrants from the Caribbean account for 50 percent of Black immigrant eligible voters nationally and in Florida, the vast majority or 92 percent, hails from Caribbean nations such as Haiti and Jamaica.

A conservative estimate for the number of Jamaican voters in Florida stands at 91,000, because many may not report Jamaica as their country of origin, while Haitian voters are estimated at about 115,000. Across the state, nearly four of every ten immigrant was born in the Caribbean and call areas like Broward County, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Palm Beach Gardens, Tampa, Miami, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Port Saint Lucie, West Palm Beach, Deerfield Beach, Miami Beach, Kissimmee, Fort Myers, Boca Raton and Sarasota, home.



- Getty Images, Jim Watson

Many Caribbean-American voters are especially excited this year because the roots of Democratic Vice-Presidential hopeful, Senator Kamala Harris, runs straight to the Caribbean island of Jamaica, through her father, Professor Donald Harris.

Both Harris and Democratic Presidential hopeful, Vice President Biden, have recognized the importance this voting bloc could play this elections – making the difference between a win for Donald Trump in a state where Republicans have often chosen the President, and a win for the

Democrats. Speaking to Caribbean-American radio personality, Diana “Lady D” Taylor on Caribbean Affair Connection Radio in Orlando, FL recently, Harris, recognized this fact.

“When you look at the Caribbean-American community, it is vast and it is so intertwined and integrated into the fabric of America and so much a part of the historic leadership of America so we just want to make sure everyone votes. And Florida is so important because Floridians

and Caribbean-Americans can determine the outcome of the election,” the VP hopeful said.

Biden, in both Little Haiti and Miramar, has also said the Caribbean-American voting bloc could determine the election’s outcome.

“It’s go time! Here in Florida, you can determine the outcome of this election. We win Florida and it’s all over,” he told many Caribbean and Jamaican-Americans at an amphitheater at Miramar Regional Park in Miramar recently.

He took the same message to Haitian voters whom he met with in Little Haiti, Miami as well. “The Haitian community by itself, if the turnout was like it was last time, the Haitian community itself can determine the outcome of this election,” Biden said. “I really mean it. Look at the numbers, it’s real.”

Harris appeared last month on a Caribbean Riddims radio show with Marlon Hill and made a special effort to appeal to people from her father’s homeland – the Jamaican immigrant base.

Liberally dropping in the phrase, “yah mon,” she also stated that her favorite Jamaican dish is oxtail stew and revealed

that she has “every Bob Marley song that he ever sung” on her playlist.

Recognizing that immigration is a critical concern to Caribbean immigrants, on Lady D’s show, she said and Democratic Presidential hopeful, Joe Biden, will reinstate DACA for Dreamers, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program put in place by President Barack Obama but ended by Donald Trump; and create a pathway towards citizenship.

“Donald Trump has been horrendous. Look at the policy which has been about putting babies in cages and separating children from their parents at the border. He also broke his promise to the DREAMers, some of whom come from Caribbean countries,” she said.

Caribbean Americans for their part are responding. Miramar Commissioner Alexandra Davis, who has Caribbean roots, wore a “Caribbean Americans for Biden-Harris” shirt to show her support at the Biden rally in Miramar, and said Broward County will be answering Biden’s call.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Bahamas PM Denies Contracting COVID-19

Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Dr. Hubert Minnis, has denied contracting COVID-19 as the government confirmed that the Minister of Public Works, Desmond Bannister, has tested positive for the virus that has so far infected 6,135 Bahamians and killed 130 others.

"No, it is not true that I contracted COVID-19," Prime Minister Minnis told CMC from his home where he is under self-isolation.

A government statement had earlier said that as a result of Bannister testing positive for the virus and "all Cabinet Ministers, including the Prime Minister, and staff who came into direct contact with the Minister will self-quarantine.

"The Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers will work from home and continue to be fully engaged in their ministries for the duration of the quarantine period. Contact tracing is being carried out by the Ministry of Health Surveillance Unit and all established health protocols are being followed," the statement



Dr. Hubert Minnis

added.

Minnis said that his last COVID-19 test was taken last week and was negative and that he is expected to be re-tested soon.

Media reports said that Bannister was not present in the House of Assembly on Oct. 21st, but he did, however, attend a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20th, and

gave an interview to several reporters without a mask before going inside the building.

Earlier this month, Environment Minister Romauld Ferriera tested positive for the disease.

- Edited from CMC.



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Difference Makers? Caribbean American Voters In Florida Could Help Democrats Win White House

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

"We're so energized," Davis said. "Kamala Harris is one of us. We're going to turn out our base."

"I can tell you Kamala is on the tongue of everyone. They are talking about what must be done to make sure we deliver for the team of Biden and Sen. Harris," Jamaican-born Hazelle Rogers, the mayor of Lauderdale Lakes who in 1996 became Florida's first Jamaican to be elected to office added. "We are so proud, and we know that we must deliver."

Glenn Joseph, 69, also welcomed Biden's speech, and said he believes it will help motivate Caribbean-Americans. "He was consistent and on point and it should make a difference because he finally came to where it matters,"

Joseph, a Miramar resident and vice-president of the Caribbean Democratic Caucus said. "Hopefully, it will motivate our folks to get to the polls to go vote."

With early voting underway and Nov. 3rd, just around the corner, it is now in the hands of Caribbean-American voters to show up and prove their strength – despite years of being invisible or lumped in as part of simply 'The Black' voting bloc.

A News Americas' analysis of latest Department of Homeland Security data shows that over 1 million Caribbean immigrants became naturalized US citizens over a ten-year period – 2008-2018. The majority of those naturalized are from The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti.

Latest polls show Biden with a 7-point lead over Trump in Florida, as the state has already shattered opening day record for in-person early voting Monday, Oct. 19, 2020. With at least 350,000 people casting ballots and election officials continuing to count statewide, the trend continues a record-setting pace in the battleground state that is viewed as a must-win for Donald Trump.

Come Nov. 3rd, 2020, Caribbean American voters could, however, be the thorn in Trump's side, upsetting that "must win" scenario" and helping the Biden/Harris team claim victory, as the true difference makers of 2020.

*News Americas Now.com contributed to this story



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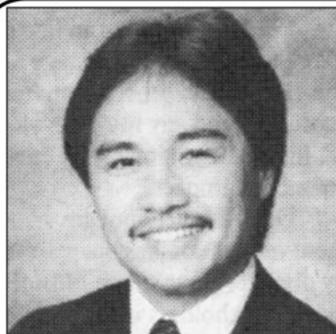
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Barbados PM Denies Claims She Collapsed



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley released this image showing that she was working when the claim was made.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has dismissed what she says are "idle rumors," which claimed that she collapsed while at Government headquarters on Oct. 22, 2020.

In a statement, the prime minister said that she has been "too busy chairing the weekly meeting of Cabinet, to be distracted by an idle rumor."

Former Haitian International Footballer Released Following Kidnapping

Kidnappers released former national footballer, Johnny Descollines, on Oct. 23rd, two days after he was kidnapped. The Haitian Football Federation (FHF), had earlier Friday appealed for the release of Descollines, described by his fans as "Le Maestro," and regarded as the best Haitian players of the last decade. Descollines, 33, was reported kidnapped after his vehicle broke down on the outskirts of the capital and the kidnappers called his wife and demanded a US\$500,000 ransom. But his former teammates, in turn, demanded his unconditional release and had planned to hold a protest demonstration. They had also called on the National Soccer Federation to stop the national championship which is underway until Descollines' release. It is unclear if any ransom was paid, but Descollines is the second prominent person to be kidnapped this week. Police have not commented on any of the kidnappings, but many countries, most notably the United States and Canada, have urged their citizens to be very wary of going to the French Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country, where protests are daily occurrences as part of the efforts to remove President Jovenel Moise from office.

- Edited from CMC.



The prime minister added that the rumors are "useless, baseless and regrettable as this is not who we are as a people."

"Firstly, I am not sure how I could have collapsed at the office on my first day back at

work, when I have been working from home for quite a while now and the Cabinet has been meeting and is indeed at this hour, 6 o'clock in the evening, via Zoom," PM Mottley said. "To all friends, well-wishers and

the general public, your prime minister is fine and on the job."

- Edited from CMC.



Six-Year-Old In Belize Tests Positive For COVID-19

A six year-old boy became the first pediatric case to test positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Belize, as other regional countries either reported more deaths or positive cases of the virus that has killed more than 1.1 million and infected 41.8 million others worldwide since December last year.

The child who has since been hospitalized. The Director of Health Services in Belize, Dr. Marvin Manzanero, said the boy is a referral from the Northern Regional Hospital, and that he has a pre-existing kidney condition. His medical exams also show that he has pneumonia.

"He is currently stable,

not requiring supplementary oxygen but he is the first pediatric case hospitalized Belize has recorded at the KMH's COVID-19 unit," Dr. Manzanero said. "Aside from him, there are six other patients hospitalized."

Belize has so far recorded 1,826, positive cases with 1,123 being active. It has also



recorded 46 deaths.

- Edited from CMC.



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Caribbean Immigrant Looks To Make History In NY Congressional Race

A Caribbean immigrant says she is hoping to make history this Nov. 3rd as she makes a bid to become only the first woman and person of color to represent the 2nd congressional district on Long Island, New York, which has long been Republican.

Jackie Gordon, an educator, veteran and community activist, is running for the seat on the Democratic ticket. If she wins, she could also become the first Jamaican to represent the district. Gordon was born in St. Catherine Jamaica and attended the White Marl School in St. Catherine. At age seven, she migrated with her parents to the US, settling in Hollis, Queens, New York. She

attended school in Queens and later attended Hunter College and Queens College, earning her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Gordon then enlisted in the military, where she served for 29 years. Over her almost three decade career in the Armed Forces, she served overseas as a platoon leader in Germany during Operation Desert Storm, as an operations officer at Guantanamo Bay during the Global War on Terror, as a battle captain in Baghdad during the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and as Commander of the 310th Military Police Battalion in Afghanistan in 2012.



Congressional hopeful, Jamaican Jackie Gordon

Gordon retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014 and spent three decades working

in New York public schools. From 2007 to 2020, she served on the Babylon Town Council, where she worked to direct resources to veterans and military families as Chair of the Veterans Advisory Council, pushed for the revitalization of Wyandanch Village, which has breathed new life into the community, and helped raise nearly \$1 million for the Wounded Warriors Project through the annual Soldier Ride in Babylon.

“My childhood in Jamaica taught me to help others and the importance of community. I want everyone to know my roots ring true in every decision I make, and every step I take,” she told

the Jamaica Gleaner recently. “I want every little girl growing up in Jamaica to see my candidacy and election as an inspiration for what she can achieve and a platform to ensure she reaches her dream. I wear my Jamaican heritage as a badge of honor, and I will continue to do so as I walk the halls of Congress.”

The district is made up of some 725,000 people and covers parts of Southeastern Nassau County and Southwestern Suffolk County. The district is only nine per cent black and 22 per cent Latino.

It is currently held by

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Caribbean American NY Legislators Urge Voters To Flood US Poll

BY NELSON A. KING

Even as some of them are running in uncontested races in the November 3rd general elections in the US, Caribbean-American legislators in New York are urging nationals to vote, in what they describe as perhaps the most important US presidential election of their life time.

“In our lifetimes, we have heard before, ‘this is the most important election ever,’ but never has this been truer than this 2020 election,” said veteran New York State Democratic Assemblyman Nick Perry, the Jamaican-born Democratic

representative for the 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, New York in an interview with the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

“I firmly believe that four more years of (President Donald J.) Trump in the White House will see the destruction of America’s democracy, as we know it, and as the founding fathers tried to create,” added Perry, who is running unopposed in the November 3rd general elections.

“After only four years, one would have to be totally blind to not see and hear the awful noise of the breaks and cracks of our Democratic system of

government that no one imagined could have occurred,” he said. “The stakes are too high, and it is truly a matter of life and death for our democracy. I urge everyone to not only vote for Joe Biden for President but to continue down the ballot on the Democratic line and create not a blue wave but a blue tsunami that will reverberate across the nation.”

Perry’s call is vehemently echoed by Democratic Caribbean-American Congressman, Yvette D. Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

“This election is one of the most important elections of our lifetime. Our nation is in crisis, and we need to do everything we can over the next two weeks to defeat Trump, hold the House and flip the Senate,” she told CMC.

The Congresswoman said she was “honored to receive overwhelming support” from her constituents in June’s Democratic Primary, adding that she again looks forward to receiving their support in the November poll.

“My Republican opponent this November is a Trump loyalist; and, you can guarantee that if we don’t hold our House (of Representatives) majority and

defeat Trump, he will roll over and do whatever Trump says,” said Clarke, referring to her lone challenger, Haitian American Republican, Constantin Jean-Pierre.

“We couldn’t have asked for better champions than Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris (the daughter of a Jamaican father) in the White House, and I will be proud to cast my vote for the Democratic ticket,” she added. “I will be casting my ballot, along with my family, during the early

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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UK Nationals React To US Elections Drama

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

If the American polls are any indication of the sentiments of most right now, then it is obvious that many now equate their existence in the so-called 'land of the free,' as living on a sinking ship with no life boats.

Simply browsing online news networks and opinion columns, it is obvious that most Americans are feeling fear, confusion, and angst, particularly about the country's leader, Donald Trump, who they blame for the US' current failures. Many view Trump as an empty-headed cartoon character who has no clue what to do, as the nation tumbles around him. But how do UK nationals view the man in the White House? The majority are dumbstruck at his incompetence and failure to take advice.

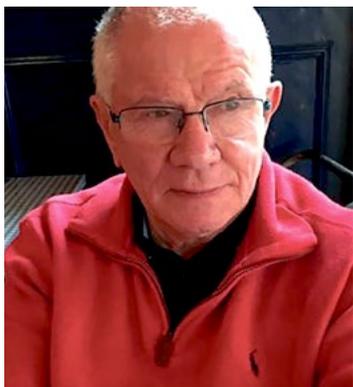
"My overall impression of America is that there seems to be an environment of segregation, class differences and racial actions created by the current president Trump," remarked Helen Murphy, an independent researcher, whose name was changed to protect her identity. "In my opinion, America now-a-days, seems to be struggling with social-cultural issues creating a huge threat towards opportunities for younger generations to develop their social-cultural identity."

SMOKE SCREEN

Asked about America's status as a world leader among nations, Murphy balked at the suggestion. "This has been a smoke screen," she said, adding that the Republicans have presented this lie for decades because of their dominant position, which creates the illusion of being in control of what happens in the world.

Writer and artist, Dane Wilson, agrees with Murphy.

"America being politically, economically, and militarily stronger? This is clearly not the case as



Dane Wilson

both China and Russia have enough military resources to counteract America. And also, China runs an economically proficient model," said Wilson.

With a long pause, as he mulled his thoughts, looking for the right words, he added: "That being said, I must admit that where America does lead the world, and by a long, long way, is in the creative arts, film, dance, music, comedy, advertising, design and more, underscoring the phrase American know-how."

But in spite of the spirit of creativity and potential, Wilson is troubled by the US' overall negativity.

"For me, America appears as a far right, fascist police state. There is no justice, truth or honesty for black and ethnic immigrant minorities," he added. "Democracy, its founding governing declaration: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,' has been twisted and perverted to, in reality, mean the opposite - a lie - a complete fake. And to add insult to injury, gun law, usually in the hands of the police, prevails. Overall, America is run on a basis of fear."

ON THE BRINK

Joy Wright, another UK

national who did not want her real name used, is afraid of visiting America, viewing the country as many do, a lawless state on the brink of civil fighting.

"Right now, I wouldn't even want to spend my hard-earned bucks on vacationing there," Wright declared. "Being a Black person, I would be right scared to set foot in the USA, let alone live. It's not safe... What I can say is that on the world stage, the current administration does seem to be a train wreck on all counts."

Indeed, the United States of America has lost the highly regarded status it once commanded, pre-Trump.

Former Design and Development Manager Patricia Phipps summed it up by saying: "My perception of America today is that on an international level, Trump has lost the respect of several countries because he is not serious on helping to deal with major global issues, such as climate change and environmental issues. Internally, he is acting very irresponsibly in his actions and speeches regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump does not respect the individual liberties of the people of America. He seems to incite racial tensions by his inaction to deal with racial

injustice."

Asked who they would vote in the 2020 Presidential elections, if they could, most said Democrats would rule the day.

"Joe Biden without a doubt," said Murphy. "He seems to be



Patricia Phipps

able to continue the message of unity, proper support of ethnic minorities, promotion of equality and gender equality as was initiated by former president Obama."

"Based on the manifesto alone I would vote for Biden because he appears to be interested in restoring environmental protection, healthcare rights, and international alliances," Phipps said, basing her

analysis on research. "He is eager to set up a free national contact-tracing program for COVID-19, raise minimum wages, and invest in green energy. He is keen to set up economic and social programs to support minority communities, etc."

But she added a caveat: "However, they usually promise the earth but never follow through."

Taking Phipps' caveat to a higher level, Wilson warned of potential danger from a second-term Trump.

Trump's extreme, hysterical, narcissistic rants of lies, hate and racial bigotry, Biden extols, in a cool calm and collected manner, the reverse, and gives some hope in restoring a true system of equanimity, equality and justice for all," said Wilson. "Trump is out to turn America into a one-party fascist dictatorship. God help us all worldwide, if that occurs."

But Wright made an interesting observation.

"Whilst I believe we can achieve anything at any age, it does mystify me that these two septuagenarians are the best that the USA has to offer America and the world," Wright quipped.



Caribbean Immigrant Looks To Make History In NY Congressional Race

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Republican Peter King who is not to seek re-election this year. Gordon is hoping not only to break the male dominance in the congressional district representation in congress, but also to turn the district Democratic.

"I believe that my candidacy is one of inspiration as I am the first black female to seek the seat," she said. Her candidacy has been endorsed by the Long Island Newsday newspaper, the largest newspaper serving the community.

"For me to be a candidate in the district speaks to how much the district has changed. It shows the changes we are making and

will continue to make. I've built my campaign in response to the hard-working families I hope to represent," Gordon, who lives in Copiague with her son Augustus said. "I am running to keep healthcare and prescription drug costs down and protect coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. To grow economic opportunity, push for tax relief, protect our veterans, and to secure a brighter future for our children by fortifying our schools, supporting our teachers, and empowering families to seek the tools they need to be successful."

- Edited From The Jamaica Gleaner



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A Caribbean Film Festival Celebrates Britain's Windrush Generation

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

A fitting tribute to Caribbean people who helped rebuild Britain was recently held as the inaugural Windrush Caribbean Film Festival got under way on October 17th.

In a bid never to forget the British subjects who migrated to the UK from the commonwealth Caribbean between 1948 and 1973, answering the call to help reconstruct a wounded country after World War 2, Trinidadian-born Film Producer and Director Frances-Anne Solomon, British social commentator and political activist of Jamaican heritage, Patrick Vernon OBE, and other organizers, decided to host the event.

The festival offers films showcasing the challenges, achievements, and aspirations of the Caribbean Windrush generation on the heels of the 2017 Windrush scandal that revealed that the British Home Office had wrongly stepped on the legal rights, detained, and even deported many Caribbean immigrants who arrived on the Windrush.

Following protests and then recognizing its ineptitude and resultant failings, the British government took responsibility and apologized, with promises to right the wrongs. But many cases are still pending in a bottleneck exacerbated by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

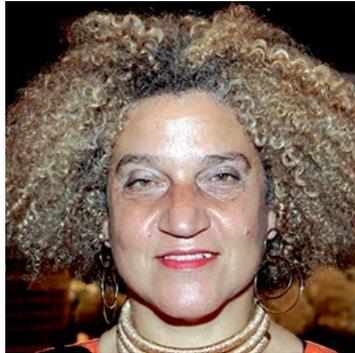
As such, Solomon and Vernon have stepped up to ensure the spotlight remains on these immigrants and pioneers.

PIONEERING SPIRITS

"I think it's really important for us as a community to recognize the lives and contributions of those

pioneering spirits who gave up their homelands to come to Britain, and often they did not meet with a warm welcome, and whose lives and stories and struggles have really paved the way for the lives that we are able to lead today, and whose stories have not been told," explained Solomon during the recent virtual launch.

Over the six days of the



Frances-Anne Solomon

festival, from Oct. 17th to Nov. 8, 2020, audiences will be able to see films, engage in discussions, and participate in master classes virtually. Each screening will be coupled with Q&A with major filmmakers, activists, and actors.

Solomon also revealed that the Festival will launch the first 'Paulette Wilson' Windrush Award, which will be given in memory of the prominent Jamaican-born Windrush campaigner who was wrongly detained by the Home Office, and who went on to become the face of the Windrush Scandal campaign. The award will be presented to an individual who has been instrumental in advancing the narrative to achieve justice for the Windrush generation.

Addressing the need for



Patrick Vernon, OBE

such a festival, Vernon explained that over the past 20 to 30 years, the Caribbean contribution, in particular in Britain, has been ignored, devalued, even debased. That's why 11 years ago, he successfully campaigned for a national Windrush Day to honor a generation, including his parents, who came from Jamaica in the 50s, worked hard and made sacrifices for Britain.

"It's only because of the scandal that everybody is talking about Windrush; that's not good enough," he said. "So, creating that legacy through film and of course literature can inspire current and future filmmakers about Caribbean heritage and its intersectionality around the world."

Solomon also acknowledged that her parents were also among the Windrush generation. She spoke poignantly about the importance of the pain and suffering of "our forefathers," as well as the incredible contributions they made.

EXPLOSIVE HUB

"They came together in the Caribbean arts movement and created a Caribbean culture that has inspired and driven the culture of the world," said Solomon. "It

was a moment when within a few years, all the African-Caribbean countries would become independent. And the hub of that independence movement was here in England. And some of the most important campaigners and leaders like George Padmore and Claudia Jones, Paul Robeson and many others - Sparrow and Kitchener - were here. It was such an explosive hub of activity, of resistance, of cultural expression that has defined the world. It all began in that colonial moment in England, where freedom clashed with empire, and many people paid the price."

Importantly, these groundbreaking creative experts warned that the Windrush generation are ageing and passing away, which makes it more urgent to capture and tell their stories. And part of their responsibility, they said, is to remind the generations to come, that their current plight and struggles are not new.

"A lot of young people growing up now they don't know that a lot of the things they are going through, a lot of the tensions and struggles that they have now, occurred in the past, and that many people fought for the very freedom (they have now)," said Solomon. "It's important to know what history teaches us, that it goes in cycles, that we have to fight for it again to tell those stories, which should be urban legends. We should know the stories of our forefathers as well as we know the stories of Winston Churchill."

Vernon added that is "our" responsibility to use "this" medium as an educational tool. He added that as a filmmaker, "you're a griot, you're telling a

story and passing on that story to the next generation."

"Somehow, we've lost that," he said. "So, if this festival can engineer, create, and be a platform for new talent celebrating the Diaspora of the Caribbean, that's important."

And teaching the right lessons is critical for a healthy, positive vision of a people, added Solomon.

"One of the reasons that we wanted to create the festival was because a lot of the images that are put out there about black people in Britain, and globally, are stereotypes of who we are, because they're created by people who are outside of our cultures," said Solomon. "So, quite inevitably, commissioning editors will only go for images of black people that are gang-based, drugs, violence. It's very tragic, because that's not who we are, that's not our history... We have this incredibly rich story to tell, that's why we started the Windrush Film Festival."

Caribbean-focused films and conversations continue at windrushfilmfestival.com and caribbeantales.org.



Caribbean American NY Legislators Urge Voters To Flood US Poll

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

vote period, which begins this Saturday, October 24, and I encourage everyone to make a plan to vote either by absentee, early vote or on Election Day."

While she does not have an opponent in the general elections, Guyanese-born New York State Democratic Senator Roxanne Persaud, told CMC that her focus is on helping her State Senate colleagues, "who have opponents to retain their seats.

"In Brooklyn, it is important that Senator Gouardes win his re-election," said Persaud, referring to New York State Senator Andrew Gouardes, who represents New York's 22nd State Senate District. He was first elected in November 2018.

Persaud, who represents the 19th Senatorial District - which comprises 12 Brooklyn communities: Canarsie, East New York, Brownsville, Mill Basin, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Flatlands, Mill Island, Georgetown, Ocean Hill and Starrett City, with about 318,019 constituents - is also advocating success for "the Biden team" in the November 3 poll.

Democratic Caribbean



New York State Democratic Assemblyman Nick Perry, (I.), is among those urging Caribbean Americans to get out and vote.

American Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, whose opponent is Republican Menachem Rappaport, could not emphasize enough the salience of voting, saying that "every election is important.

"Far too often, we have been made to believe that our voices don't matter, that our lives don't matter and that our votes don't matter. Well, I'm here to remind you that they do matter," said the representative for the 43rd Assembly District in Brooklyn, whose parents hail from Aruba and St. Martin.

Her Democratic Assembly colleague, Assemblywoman

Rodneyse Bichotte, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, said the November elections are "pivotal" for Caribbean-Americans.

"Gaps in health care access, and educational and income inequities resulted in a higher infection and fatality rate in largely-minority districts like mine," said Bichotte, chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, who represents Brooklyn's 42nd Assembly District.

Another daughter of Haitian immigrants, Phara Souffrant Forrest, essentially a political newcomer, expressed strong confidence in repeating her shocking upset in the Democratic Primary election in June, when she beat long-standing African American Assemblyman Walter T. Mosely, III in the general elections for the 57th Assembly District in Brooklyn.

Souffrant Forrest, 31, a registered nurse, whose husband is Jamaican Charles Forrest, beat Mosely by 10 percentage points in the Primary.

"If you're going to vote by mail, sign it and send it in. If you're going to vote in person, make sure you have your documents with you," she said. "The idea is that they're (Republicans) banking on us not to have a plan. Once you have a plan, you don't have to worry about voter suppression."

In a message to Caribbean voters on Friday, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, also urged the community to "make a plan for how you're voting.

"Election Day is in 11 days, and we all know that voting Donald Trump and his destructive, hateful actions out of office is the top priority," Williams said. "Lives literally depend on it. Early voting starts tomorrow (today, Saturday). There are three ways you can vote this year. Before you head to the polls, make sure to check your voter registration," urged Williams in his email message. "This election is critical, and there's no time to waste."

- Edited from CMC.



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The Irony Of The Cuban, Venezuelan Support For El Trumpeto

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

In fiscal year 2020, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, (US ICE), completed 1,208 removals of Cuban nationals back to Cuba. More than twice as many were deported

in 2019, compared to 2018, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's own data. That was more than 10-fold from the end of the Obama administration.

Since Donald Trump took office, more Cubans arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border have been sent back, and a policy introduced in 2019 that denies protection to asylum seekers who have passed through another country before reaching Mexico



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

and have not sought asylum there, has also impacted Cubans and Venezuelan immigrants. In fact, Cubans make up the largest number of migrants in Mexico trying to obtain asylum in the United States – about 20,000.

Hundreds of Venezuelans fleeing the regime of Nicolás Maduro and showing up at the U.S.-Mexico border in large numbers, are also coming up against Trump's hardline immigration policies. Most of them have been jailed for extended periods, or sent back to Mexico to languish in dangerous border towns while awaiting their immigration cases in the U.S.

The lack of TPS and access to asylum has resulted in at least hundreds of Venezuelans and Cubans trapped in U.S. detention centers, exposed to the deadly coronavirus.

All despite proclamations from the Trump administration that it supports people escaping brutal conditions under Maduro and "socialism."

Yet, ironically, Cubans and Venezuelan immigrant voters in Florida – who are quick to yell about the horrors of dictatorship and "socialism," – are happy to throw their support to America's emerging dictator and xenophobe-in-chief. The rally attendance and 'Latinos For Trump' signs are nauseating, if they weren't so laughable.

It's time to wake up!

John Bolton, in his memoir, "The Room Where It Happened," claimed that Trump described the current Venezuelan President, as "smart" and "tough," while expressing admiration for "all those good-looking generals" who stand behind him. By contrast, despite the front from the administration, Trump, according to Bolton, characterized Venezuelan opposition leader and leader of the democratically elected National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, as "weak."

Trump and his party, which controls the US Senate, has also done nothing to push Temporary

Protected Status, (TPS), for Venezuelans here. It was the Democratically controlled Congress that introduced and passed the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019.

Yet to date, the bill continues to be stalled in the Senate and the Department of Homeland Security has not designated TPS for this group even though it can. All while El Trumpeto continues to pledge support for the Venezuelan people and some – including in Florida – foolishly have fallen for the lies.

No immigrant should vote for or support Donald Trump; not after the clear xenophobic policies of this administration over the past four years and the ratcheted up anti-immigrant sentiments across the country.

Cubans and Venezuelan here in the US would be wise not to be so blinded by the horrors of the dictator they fled that they miss the dictator emerging in these United States.

Take a lesson from the Haitian voters, who Donald

Trump courted in 2016, and then swiftly cast aside by ending TPS for many in their communities, deporting many back to Haiti, and referring to the country reportedly, as a S-Hole country. Open your eyes and see the policies now, that are also impacting your own brothers and sisters fleeing the same horrors you have been lucky to escape, and understand that it is Donald Trump, his administration and his party only who are standing in the way of TPS and asylum for them right now.

Donald Trump's only goal is for White Power to Reign Supreme. Brown and black immigrants have no place in this White Utopia – no matter how much blood of the European slave master flows in your veins and "light" your skin may appear when compared to Haitians and other Central American immigrants.

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow



The Girlfriend Experience

Wives do get their fair share of criticism, but is it justified? Well, the cockney slang for wife is, 'trouble and strife,' and some folks refer to them as the old ball and chain

Recently, I was speaking with a colleague of mine and I asked him about his new wife. I never expected his response. "Adjusting to married life is a struggle and kinda' freaking me out," he said.

I've heard the same from other men who have been married for a long time, and usually, they wistfully compare the wife to the girlfriend of yester-year. Both have their pros and cons, but many men sort of lean towards the memory of the girlfriend, rather than the wife. Is this justified or is it that perhaps they became so chastened by their wives that their memories got clouded, in the same way people refer to the good old days?

I asked them to compare. So here goes. Well, first of all, the girlfriend is usually a younger model, and always manages to keep herself well put together and attractive. Also, a girlfriend is not yet a wife, so if she wants to become a wife, she has to not only attract the man, but keep him interested in her.

Many wives, after a few years, tend to let go, get relaxed, can't bother to look attractive anymore, settle into a routine and become same old same old to their man. No longer are they making any effort to keep the man interested in them. After all, they have him already.

When it comes to romance, the girlfriend is always ready



and raring to go, and will not only jump through hoops, but will cartwheel head over heels to please her man. Never will you ever hear of a girlfriend depriving her man of romance. Wives on the other hand have a reputation for reducing romance as the years roll by. Somehow, it's no longer a priority and they can take it or leave it.

Girlfriends seem to have more energy and always want to do something. "Come Honey, let's go to the movies, the beach, nightclub, jogging." Wives somehow always seem to be tired. "Oh, I have to get up early



TONY ROBINSON

in the morning;" "I have to wash my hair tonight then put in curls;" "I have to prepare the children for school tomorrow."

Girlfriends are compliant and always want to please their men. Wives tend to be bossy, critical, miserable, and are always giving instructions. "Mow the lawn, take out the garbage, feed the dogs, get the car washed."

That's why some men have the best of both worlds as they have their cake and eat it too. They have both a wife and a girlfriend, satisfying different needs. But having a girlfriend alone can be risky, for in many cases, if the man's fortune changes, she's not going to stick around.

If he gets sick, she's not going to be any nurse. "Listen, I didn't sign on to be any nursemaid to any man, I'm outta'

here," she might say. Whereas a wife may stick around through thick and thin, a girlfriend has no such commitment, and will move on faster than you can say hypertension.

But what about the wife who's also a girlfriend to another man? How come she reverts to the girlfriend mode and does all the things that girlfriends do? She keeps herself attractive for her lover, is very attentive to him, and offers him much excitement. How can she be different things to different men? Many men say that their wives are passionless boring women,

only to have another man describe her as a raging torrent of sensuality.

The irony is that many girlfriends turn into wives and display the same characteristics as wives do. "Look how drastically she changed after she got the ring," is the common comment.

The girlfriend experience or wife, What's better? You decide.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can email Tony Robinson at seido1yard@gmail.com



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Do Your Homework Before You Do Your Voting

BY ROGER CALDWELL

Voting is a sacred right in America. Your vote is your voice, and all votes matter. In a matter of days, Americans will decide who will manage the country for the next 4 years, and it has never been more important to elect a president that we can trust. President Donald Trump lies

nearly every time he opens his mouth, and he has no desire to do the job.

White House officials and Trump's personal physician, Sean Conley, have repeatedly dodged questions about when the President last tested negative for COVID-19. Everyone in President Trump's circle must also lie to keep their job, so you cannot trust anyone to tell the truth. Everyone

lives in an altered reality, and no one has any idea what the next blatant lie will be.

As President Trump lives in a fabricated universe and manufactures bizarre lies for no apparent reason, Pew Research Center estimates seniors will account for almost a quarter of the electorate even as the political strategists suggest older voters are unhappy with the president's

handling of the pandemic.

This group of the electorate - 65 years and older - make up only 16 percent of the American population. But, according to Pew, they account for 80 percent of the more than 220,000 dead from COVID-19. As more Americans open their eyes and become informed voters, there is no way they can vote for Trump when they study the facts.

Voting takes more than just putting a check mark next to the President at the top of the ballot and having no idea of who the other candidate is, and their positions. Voting takes work, and very few voters can justify why they voted for a particular candidate. With the pandemic, there were very few townhall debates, and most voters will vote with no understanding of why a candidate is running for their position.

As the election season heats up, voters must vote, even as they are bombarded with ads and information. Every candidate appears to be telling the truth, and in some counties, the election is non-partisan. In Orange County, Florida, certain offices and positions are non-partisan and others are partisan. In the state, judges are non-partisan, and most voters have no idea of what they stand for and which governor appointed them to their position.

It is time in America for candidates to be transparent and tell the truth of what they have done in two years, four years, or six years. Some candidates get nothing done in two years, and some are in office to see if they can generate additional income for their business.

Before any voter votes, they are strongly urged to study their ballot and explore the issues in their community, their county,



their state, and the country. Once a voter understands the issues and hot button positions that personally impacts them, they are now informed voters, but they are still not ready to vote. Now you are ready to do your homework and start by going to the candidate's website to see where they stand on your hot button issues. If the candidate is an incumbent, go to Congress.gov and research their voting records.

As a result of COVID-19, there have been very few live campaign events with down the ballot candidates, so call candidates' offices and share your concerns, and ask questions of their representative. Read the local newspaper, check the candidate's answers, and make strong decisions based on your research and work.

As Dana Bunis put it so well in the AARP's most recent Bulletin: "We're not just fighting to reverse as much of the damage caused by the Trump administration as we can. We're fighting to build something new. To do that, we have to dream big, make bold decisions. This year has made it clearer than ever that we must rapidly strengthen access to affordable and equitable health care, and intentionally dismantle the systemic inequities and biases woven into the fabric of so many of this nation's policies and institutions."



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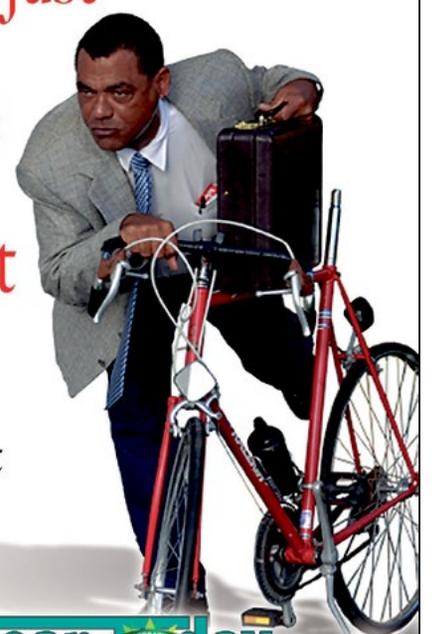
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Miami Carnival Goes Virtual For The First Time

Miami Carnival pushed forward this year, despite the pandemic, into the virtual sphere, as the Miami Broward One Carnival Host Committee reshaped the perspective of how their patrons and supporters connected for the annual Caribbean cultural celebration in their 36th year.

The production team was able to capture the Miami Carnival tradition, by combining pageantry, rhythmic storytelling, and creativity, proving that even though online, the energy, connection and support revibrated.

Solidifying their position by their creative production, official host, MC Sizwe, guided the audience through a medley of Caribbean and artistic cultural performances that included: Miami Carnival masquerade bands, Freaks Mas and Wassi Ones, Mike Andrews, Tifa, Sizwe, Steel Away, Melo Groove Steel Orchestra, Resurrection Steel, Sticks and Tones, DJ Fly Guy, Cool Blaze, Barrie Hype, House Arrest, Giselle D' Wassi One, Ricardo Drue, Gillian Smart, Dlife, Voice, Nailah Blackman, Eddy Charles & The A Team Band, Marzville and Motto.

"Shift, pivot, and adapt are words that are synonymous with Miami Carnival this year," stated Joan Hinkson, Miami Broward Carnival Chair. "Although we could not celebrate our 36th year



- David Muir Photo



- David Muir Photo

Bureau. "The Miami Carnival Committee did a great job in showcasing the beauty of what makes Miami Carnival so special. The reach, domestically and internationally to people interested in the Caribbean culture and performance arts showcased each year, was a big part of Miami Carnival this year through social media channels and streaming opportunities. While the Miami Carnival energy is the in-person connection, this celebration of 36

years served as a great alternative. It has us all excited about having everyone come back into the market for next year's Miami Carnival. We applaud the leadership of the Carnival for having the 'Show Must Go On' attitude, and the GMCVB will continue partnering to showcase Miami's Caribbean connection."

Viewers can catch the replay at <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiBrowardOneCarnival/>.

with everyone in person, we felt the love and the energy of all those who tuned in to watch our Miami Carnival Virtual weekend. We continue to remain dedicated to the celebration of the Caribbean and Carnival Culture of South Florida."

"As a destination, we are all learning how to pivot and make what worked before still work but in a virtual format," said Connie Kinnard, Vice President of Multicultural Tourism & Development with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors

Caribbean Singer Makes Season 19th Of The Voice

A Caribbean-born singer has made it on to the 19th season of "The Voice," as the NBC musical talent competition got underway last week.

During the blind auditions, Seattle-based soul/rock artist Payge Turner impressed with a commanding version of The Weeknd's "Call Out My Name," earning a spot on Gwen Stefani's team.

"I was ready to go," a visibly amped Turner told the judges. "They had me back there and I was like, 'I'm a bull in a pen. Let's go, let's go!'"

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, the 27-year-old singer/guitarist relocated to Seattle here from Kansas, where she spent much of her youth. A keyboard teacher at the School of Rock, Turner has also released her "Sleep Walker" EP this summer, coolly blending soul and soft rock with hints of jazz and blues via guitar with touches of steel drums from her Caribbean roots.

She also holds a degree in music theory and vocal performance. Turner grabbed the judges' attention right out of the gate, hitting a rich low note.

"I just felt like your voice is just so beautiful, everybody was dying when you hit that low note," Stefani gushed. "And I just love how much control you have and how sexy your voice sounded."

While Turner ended up choosing Stefani as her coach for



Trinidad & Tobago-born singer-songwriter Payge Turner earned a spot on Gwen Stefani's team during the season premiere of "The Voice."

(Tyler Golden / NBC)

the season, Stefani's boyfriend and fellow judge Blake Shelton was the first judge to decisively turn his chair, indicating he wanted Turner on his team. The country star praised Turner's swaggering stage presence after her high-stepping performance.

Turner also heated up Twitter with one user posting: "That was just amazing performance i got goosebumps #TheVoice," as another chimed in: "Payge Turner repping for T&T and the Caribbean on #TheVoice I literally screamed when she said she was from Trinidad and Tobago. Guess who I'm backing this season?"

- Edited From News Americas Now.com



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Get Ready For The Caribbean Travelers Health Assurance Stamp

A new Caribbean Travelers Health Assurance stamp is set to debut across the region on Nov. 5th.

As part of its ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and other public health threats in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is preparing to officially launch the stamp to protect the region's tourism sector and safeguard the health and safety of residents and visitors.

The Caribbean Travelers Health Assurance stamp for Healthier Safer Tourism, (HST), is a measurable and verifiable recognition award for tourism entities and destinations that are implementing the recommended proactive COVID-19 health monitoring and safety measures.

Dr. Joy St. John, CARPHA's Executive Director, explained that the stamp is part of CARPHA's Traveler's Health Program (THP), which provides an early monitoring and response system to public health issues that impact tourism. The public health expert explained that hospitality facilities awarded the HST stamp will be listed as preferred options on the Caribbean Traveler's Health Mobile App. Awardees will also later be listed on the websites of CARPHA and CHTA, with links



Caribbean officials are looking to ramp up protection of visitors to the region.

to regional and international health and tourism stakeholders.

"Caribbean travelers now have the added assurance of a healthier, safer option for accommodations (hotels, guesthouses) and services (transport, tour operators) awarded the HST stamp," said Dr. St. John, who noted the stamp has been officially approved by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), the region's pre-eminent tourism bodies.

Caribbean Traveler's Health Mobile App

Additionally, CARPHA will unveil the Caribbean Traveler's

Health Mobile App, to provide travel health information for visitors by each Caribbean destination. It will include vaccination requirements, health care facilities, accommodations listings, as well as, health alerts of current public health issues, COVID-19 proactive/prevention measures, and travel requirements by country - testing, health screening, pre-approval, and tracking. It will link directly to CARPHA's COVID-19 situation reports, guidelines, and the THP.

The app also will identify accommodations and other hospitality facilities within a destination that have been awarded the Caribbean Travelers

Health Assurance stamp.

Dr. Lisa Indar, Director of Surveillance and Head of the THP, explained that the app will be expanded next year to include cruise ships that have been awarded the stamp. "CARPHA is uniquely resourced and positioned to provide reliable travelers health information of this detail and magnitude," she added, explaining that the app has been designed for both iOS and Android platforms.

Tourism And Health Information System

In addition to the stamp and the app, CARPHA's Proactive COVID-19 Health Measures for Tourism are aimed at building travelers' assurance, tourism resilience, and regional health security. The measures include utilizing the Tourism and Health Information System (THiS), a web-based, early warning and response information system to capture illnesses in real time and thereby reduce spread and reputational damage; certified

training in COVID-19 health measures for the hospitality sector - including testing, masks, social distancing, handwashing hygiene, sanitization, and response from visitor arrival to departure; guidelines and checklists; hospitality Health, Safety And Environmental Sanitation, (HSE), operational standards.

CARPHA is a global pioneer in tourism-health partnerships, having worked with tourism stakeholders in the Caribbean over the past six years on health safety, education and training matters. Earlier this year in March, CARPHA partnered with CTO, CHTA, the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Center (GTRCMC), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission (OECS), to form the COVID-19 Tourism Task Force to launch Caribbean health, safety and sanitation guidelines and training for thousands of the Region's tourism employees.



Puerto Rican Elected President Of The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, (CHTA), has a new president. Puerto Rico's Caribe Hilton general manager, Pablo Jose Torres Sojo, was recently elected to head the association for the next two years. The veteran of the hospitality industry takes over from Barbados hotelier Patricia Affonso-Dass, who for the past two years presided over the association. Affonso-Dass proudly passed the gavel to Torres at the CHTA Annual General Meeting which took place virtually on October 16th, pledging her continued support during his presidency.

Torres has a long and distinguished relationship with hotel and tourism associations throughout the Caribbean. Prior to being elected to the CHTA presidency, he served as CHTA's Fifth Vice President and was a member of the Association's Executive Committee, its core decision-making body. A former director and Vice President for the Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association, he also served for over two years as Chairman of the Board for the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association and leads its General Managers & Owners Committee.

Torres started in the hotel industry as a food and beverage trainee, and successfully completed hospitality-related studies at Colegio Universitario Hotel Escuela de Venezuela and Hocking College in Ohio. Over his 31-year career, Torres has kept abreast of industry trends and made professional development a priority, obtaining additional certifications in hotel real estate investment, strategic leadership, revenue management, financial management, and food and

beverage management. He credits the professional development focus of Hilton International and the mentorship of Hilton's top hoteliers for providing the support which has been essential to his success in the industry.

Torres has held a number of key leadership positions with internationally recognized hotel companies throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, including Starwood, InterContinental, Four Seasons and, most recently, Hilton. For the past six years, he has served as General Manager at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico, having previously held the position at the British Colonial Hilton Nassau in The Bahamas and the Hilton Short Hills in New Jersey. Bilingual in English and Spanish, Torres brings broad international experience to the role, having worked in countries as diverse as Belgium, Germany, South Korea, Israel, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, The Bahamas, Trinidad, Jamaica and Aruba, as well as the United Kingdom.

Commenting on his new role, Torres stated: "It is a great honor to receive the support of such an eminent group of highly experienced professionals who, with CHTA and their companies and organizations, will be at the very forefront of the Caribbean's post-pandemic economic recovery. I am confident that working collectively as one, we will see our sector and the region's main economic driver emerge from this crisis much stronger, much like we saw Puerto Rico's tourism industry make a dramatic comeback following Hurricane Maria."



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Caribbean Today

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Jerk Turkey Breast

As Caribbean immigrants in the US countdown to the Thanksgiving holiday, despite the pandemic, many will ensure extra spice and Caribbean dishes take the place of many of the typical American cuisine. For many, that includes adding a twist on the main attraction – the turkey - by making a jerk turkey breast this year. Here's how you too can do this easily and simply this Thanksgiving.

INGREDIENTS

- Brine:**
- 1/2 Cup Kosher
 - Salt
 - 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
 - 8 Cups Chicken Stock
 - 1 1/2 tsp Black Peppercorns
 - 1 tsp Allspice Berries
 - 1/2 tsp Ginger, Grated
 - 1/2 Onion, Sliced
 - 1 Cinnamon Stick
 - 1/2 Cup Water
 - 2 Sprigs Fresh Thyme
 - 1/2 tsp Ground Sage
 - 4 Cups Iced Water

Marinade:

- 3 Tbsp Jerk Seasoning
- 1/4 Cup Soy Sauce
- 6 Cloves Garlic, Minced
- A 7 Lb Turkey Breast

METHOD

Boil brine ingredients, except iced water in a large pot and cool.

Brine thawed, turkey breast (breast side down) with iced water overnight in refrigerator. Discard brine and marinate turkey breast in jerk seasoning,

soy sauce and garlic.

Preheat oven to 450°F. Roast turkey breast, breast side up, for 30 minutes, then set oven to 350°F.

Cover with foil. Roast for another 1 hour and 30 minutes or until internal temperature is 165°F.

Bon Appetite and Happy Thanksgiving.

NewsAmericasNow.com



Sweet Potato Pudding



Another alternative to the annual sweet potato pie is the Jamaican mouth-watering option of sweet potato pudding. Here's how you can add it easily to your menu this Thanksgiving.

INGREDIENTS

- 5 pounds sweet Potato
- 3 cups dark Sugar
- 1 cup(s) flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1 packet Coconut Milk Powder
- 5 cups water
- 1/4 cup Margarine melted
- 1 whole nutmeg, grated
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 tablespoon white rum
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 teaspoon Browning optional

METHOD

Peel cut and grate sweet potatoes and place in a large mixing bowl.

Add dark sugar, flour and raisins.

Combine Grace Coconut Milk

Powder with water, mix well and add to the sweet potato mixture.

Add melted margarine, nutmeg, salt, cinnamon powder, vanilla, rum, lime juice and browning and mix well.

Scrape mixture into a greased 10inch baking tin. Bake in a pre-heated oven 350 F or 180 degrees C for 1 1/2 - 1 3/4 hours.

Note: 5 pounds sweet potato will yield 12 cups when grated.

Grace Food Recipe



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SPORTS NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Windies Skipper Wants BLM Kept In Spotlight

West Indies test captain, Jason Holder, has urged cricket officials to keep the issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement and racial justice at the forefront of sports.

Holder made the call recently as he was honored with the Peter Smith Award by the Cricket Writers Club for the Windies' "trailblazing" tour of England last July. Throughout the series, both teams kneeled before the start of each test match as a mark of support for BLM.

Holder and West Indies

received the award from the United Kingdom-based entity for their "outstanding contribution to the presentation of cricket to the public." The Cricket Writers Club said not only had the Caribbean side engaged in an historic tour at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but had also added their voices to the global discourse on racial inequality.

"Holder led a trailblazing tour party that flew into the unknown at the height of the COVID-crisis in the UK, from the relative safety of the

Caribbean," the body said. "As the first sports team to enter a bio-bubble, they showed great forbearance, holed up in two hotels for seven weeks, and were instrumental in rescuing the international summer for cricket lovers and the ECB. Holder also conducted himself with grace on and off the field, speaking eloquently on race and racism and the need for education and unity, during a period of turbulence precipitated by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis."

But Holder said he was disappointed to see the practice started in the Windies series, discontinued for England's subsequent series against Pakistan and Australia.

"I was following a bit of what Mikey Holding was saying," Holder said in reference to former Windies great Michael Holding's recent criticism of England for abandoning the on-field support for the BLM



West Indies Test captain Jason Holder Wants BLM Kept In Spotlight

movement. "It's difficult to get people to see the importance of it and that's where the education has to continue to filter through. I personally was a bit disappointed to see how the Pakistan and Australia tours that went on after ours, that they were not showing their solidarity afterwards. It's a hard challenge and a long hard road. It's not an overnight fix but the most important thing is we need to come together and see each other as equal human beings."

Holding, a legendary former West Indies fast bowler who is now a well-respected international television analyst, has criticized the England and Wales Cricket Board over the decision not to continue the practice of kneeling. He said even though the West Indies tour had finished "that shouldn't mean that you still shouldn't be respecting the message and exactly what it stands for."

Holder, a late call-up to represent Sunrisers Hyderabad in the ongoing Indian Premier League, said there had also been little mention of the Black Lives Matter movement in the cash-rich tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

"I haven't had one conversation [in the IPL] around it," said the world's top-ranked Test all-rounder. "Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing. I guess it's for us to re-highlight the importance of it."

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean Roots Player Makes NHL History

A Caribbean roots player has become the highest selected Black player in the history of the National Hockey League.

Canadian-born, Jamaican roots player, Quinton Byfield, 18, was the No. 2 pick in 2020 NHL Draft, signing a three-year, entry-level contract with the Los Angeles Kings recently. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"It means a lot to me, it's something special," Byfield said after being drafted. "Being in the record books for anything is definitely super-special, especially [since] my dad and my mom didn't play hockey or have too much knowledge about that, so kind of just growing the game together. It just shows there's a lot of opportunity for everyone in the world that you can play every sport and be successful in it."

Byfield scored 82 points (32 goals, 50 assists) in 45 games with Sudbury of the Ontario Hockey League last season. He tied for fifth in the OHL in points per game (1.82), led Sudbury in points, assists and plus-minus rating (plus-26) and was second on the team in goals.

He has scored 143 points (61 goals, 82 assists) with a



Canadian-born, Jamaican roots player, Quinton Byfield, signing his entry-level contract with the Los Angeles Kings recently. (Instagram image)

plus-38 rating in 109 games in his two OHL seasons and was the youngest player on Canada's roster when it won the 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship.

"Quinton is an exceptional young man and talented player with a very bright future," Kings general manager Rob Blake said after drafting Byfield. "We're proud to be adding him to our organization and look forward to the next stages of his development and a promising career in L.A."

News Americas Now.com



International Cricket Could Return To The Caribbean Next Year

Cricket West Indies president, Ricky Skerritt, says international cricket could return to the Caribbean as soon as the first quarter of next year. But he admitted that the challenge remains the creation of safe bio-secure "bubbles" at Caribbean venues.

Skerritt told SportsMax TV that CWI recently produced a draft schedule for 2021 for board approval but are still in the stages of finalizing venues and other logistical details in light of the new COVID-19 pandemic environment. However, he confirmed Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia are all expected to tour the region over the first half of 2021.

Skerritt also said the resumption of regional domestic cricket would start with the Super50 limited overs tournament which was being penciled in for January-February of next year but issues of regional air travel and establishing and implementing safe protocols, first needs to be addressed before tours could be staged.

"The first regional cricket we're proposing is the Super50 at the end of January next year," Skerritt said. "We're not hosting any international cricket before Sri Lanka which will be around February. "We go to Bangladesh in January/February and then we have three teams coming spread more towards the summer rather than the early part of the year - Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia."

CWI has not staged an international home series since last January, when Ireland toured for three One-Day Internationals



Two members of the West Indies T20 team with coach Phil Simmons, r., prep for their New Zealand tour. (CWI image)

and T20 Internationals. South Africa Women had been scheduled to play a five-match ODI series in Jamaica and Trinidad last May/June while South Africa A had been carded for five one-dayers and three four-day "Tests" in Antigua and Barbados last June/July but the matches were also canned.

The senior men's tours were also scrapped with New Zealand having been expected to play three ODIs and T20s in Antigua, Dominica and Guyana last July and South Africa down to play two Tests and five T20s in Trinidad, St Lucia, Jamaica and the United States in July/August.

But the defending ICC T20 World Cup champions will visit New Zealand from November 27 to December 15. They will start the tour with three T20Is, followed by two Test matches as part of the ICC World Test Championship.

West Indies' historic three-Test tour of England established a template for the safe resumption of cricket, however, and since then England have hosted a

couple of home tours while the Caribbean Premier League was successfully staged in Trinidad last August/September.

The cancellation of the 2020 itinerary has impacted CWI revenues significantly, forcing the Antigua-based governing body to make reductions in their expenditure. Last May, CWI announced a "temporary" 50 per cent cut in all salaries and funding of cricket across the region, referencing the "debilitating economic challenges which have resulted from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic" as the rationale for the move.

Windies New Zealand Match Schedule

November 27: 1st T20I at Eden Park, Auckland
November 29: 2nd T20I at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
November 30: 3rd T20I at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
December 3-7: 1st Test at Seddon Park, Hamilton
December 11-15: 2nd Test at Basin Reserve, Wellington



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Adolescent Pregnancy In The Caribbean Concerning ~ PAHO

Becoming a mother is a beautiful and landmark event in the lives of many women – particularly when the pregnancy is planned or desired, and childbirth is safe. But pregnancy during adolescence can have far-reaching negative and irreversible consequences for both the young girl and her child.

The Pan American Health Organization, (PAHO), and the United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA), recently launched the inaugural Caribbean Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Week to draw attention to this important topic and help put an end to adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean.

It was revealed that adolescent pregnancy rates range from 100.6 in the Dominican Republic, to 82.6 in French Guyana, 90.1 in Guyana, to 17.2 in Grenada.

High demand for family planning among adolescents' girls in the Caribbean and substantial differences among age groups and across countries is a concern, said Dr Sonja Caffé, PAHO's Regional Adolescent Health Advisor.

She revealed further that there is a 61.9 percent pregnancy rate among 15-19 years old, versus 21.4 percent among 35-39 years old in Guyana or 59.7 percent among 15-19 year-old teens, versus 20.3 percent among those 35-49-year-old in Suriname.

"The call is clear: Together, we must take concerted actions toward reducing adolescent pregnancy," said Alison Drayton, the Director of UNFPA Sub-

Regional Office for the Caribbean.

"Our adolescent girls need us to protect them from violence, empower them, guarantee their access to comprehensive and quality health services, and offer them real opportunities to be their healthiest selves and look forward to bright futures."

"Efforts to reach the most affected and vulnerable groups are insufficient and we see the inequity gaps are increasing," explained Dr. Andres de Francisco, Director of the PAHO Family, Health Promotion and Life Course Department. "It is critical that resources are invested in concrete interventions with proven efficacy. From the remarkable progress made by some countries in our region in recent years, we know that it is possible to significantly reduce adolescent fertility in a relatively short time."

"This situation is very concerning, not only because of the immediate consequences for our adolescents and their development chances, but also for the high economic costs associated with adolescent pregnancy for the Region and our communities," said Dr Pilar de la Corte Molina, Sexual and



Teen pregnancy is especially high in the Dominican Republic

Reproductive Health Advisor for UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean.

Latin America and the Caribbean, (LAC), rank second among the regions of the world in terms of adolescent pregnancy rates with 60.7 births per 1,000 girls between the age of 15 and 19 years (2015-2020). Each year in the LAC region, five out of every 100 pregnancies occur in girls under the age of 20, and 2 million children are born to young mothers between the age of 15 and 19 years.

With an estimated adolescent fertility rate of 60.2 per 1000 girls aged 15-19 years, the Caribbean sub-region is still, however, below the overall LAC rate.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean Immigrants In North West London More Likely To Be Diagnosed With Early Diabetes

Black Caribbean adults living in north west London are more likely to be diagnosed with early-onset type 2 diabetes than white adults, according to a speaker, Shivani Misra, MD, PhD, honorary senior clinical lecturer at Imperial College London.

Dr. Misra, who is also a consultant physician in metabolic medicine and diabetes at the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, and colleagues recently presented the findings at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes virtual meeting.

Researchers conducted a cross-sectional study of adults with type 2 diabetes from general practice records in north west London from April 2015 to 2019. Participants were categorized as having early-onset type 2 diabetes if they were aged 18 to 45 years at the time of diagnosis. Researchers examined the number of early-onset type 2 diabetes diagnoses by age within the white, Black Caribbean and South Asian ethnic groups. Mean BMI was also compared for each ethnicity between adults aged 18 to 45 years and those aged 55 to 79 years with a diabetes duration of less than 5 years.

Across all age groups, adults with South Asian ethnicity had the highest prevalence for type 2 diabetes at 10.1 percent, followed by Black Caribbean adults at 8.3 percent and white adults at 3.4 percent.

However, early-onset type 2 diabetes prevalence was disproportionately higher in the South Asian and African Caribbean groups. About one-quarter of all type 2 diabetes cases in the African Caribbean group were early-onset, with 7.2% of cases diagnosed at age 18 to 34 years and 18.6 percent at age 35 to 44 years.

White adults had the lowest percentage of early-onset type 2 diabetes with 3.7 percent diagnosed at age 18 to 34 years and 12 percent at age 35 to 44 years. By contrast, at age 55 years and older, white adults had a higher percentage of type 2 diabetes diagnoses than either South Asian or African Caribbean adults.

Among all three ethnic groups, however, BMI was higher for those aged 18 to 44 years with type 2 diabetes than those aged 55 to 79 years who had diabetes for less than 5 years. White adults had the highest mean BMI -(34.8 kg/m² for those aged 18-45 years vs. 31.8 kg/m² for those aged 55-79 years, followed by African Caribbean people - 33.7 kg/m² for those aged 18-45 years vs. 31 kg/m² for those aged 55-79 years.

The study's findings reveal the importance for providers to put a greater focus on managing and preventing early-onset type 2 diabetes among Black Caribbean and South Asian adults, according to Misra.



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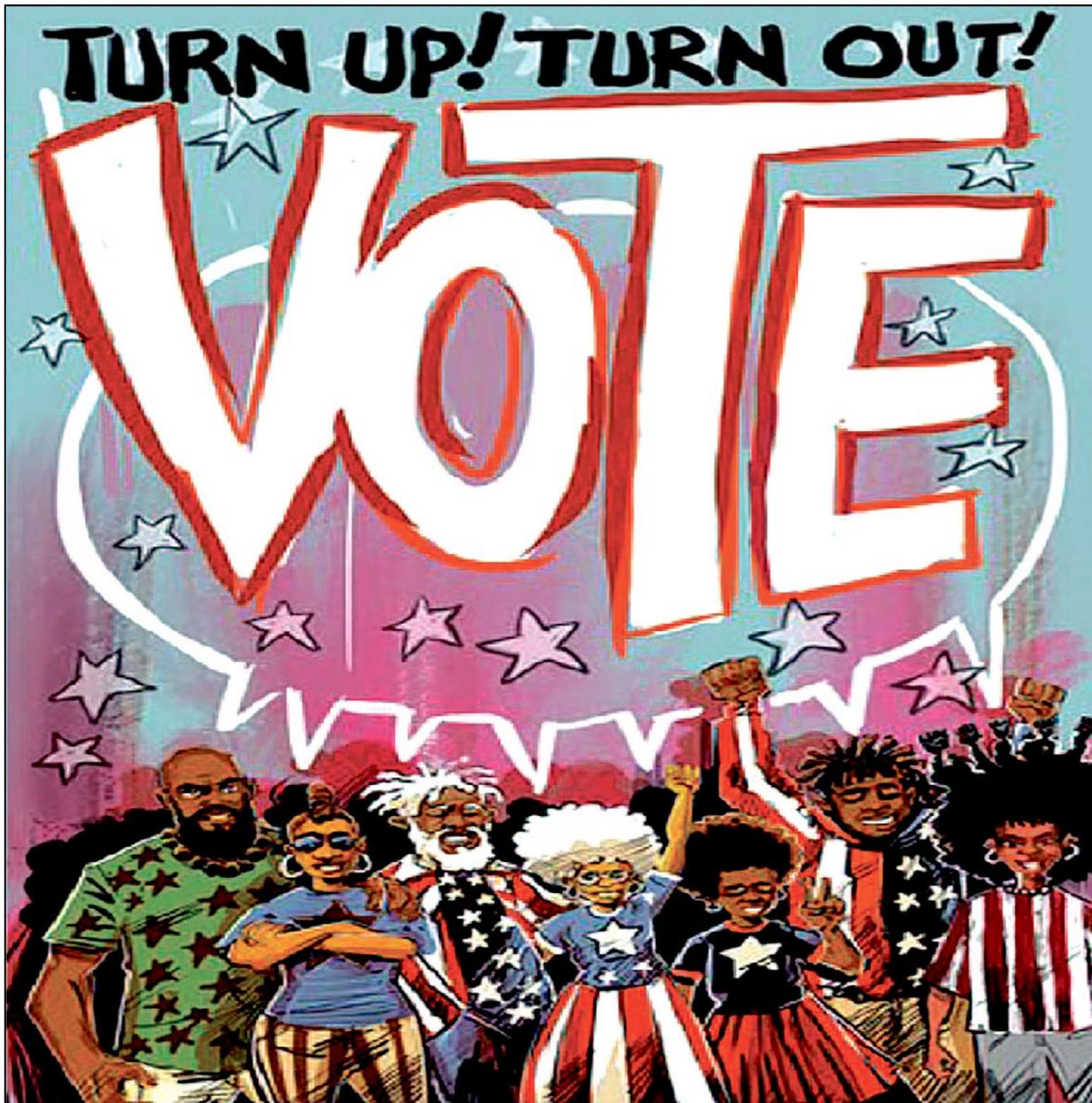
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State Representative - District 101

- Marie Woodson

State Representative - District 103

- Cindy Polo

State Representative - District 104

- Robin Bartleman

State Representative - District 105

- Maureen Porras

Sheriff

- Gregory Tony

Supervisor of Elections

- Joe Scott

County Commissioner - District 7

- Timothy M. "Tim" Ryan

County Commissioner - District 9

- Dale V.C. Holness

Shall Justice Carlos G. Muñiz of the Supreme

Court be retained in office?

- YES

Fourth District Court of Appeal

Shall Judge Alan O. Forst of the Fourth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?

- YES

Fourth District Court of Appeal

Shall Judge Mark W. Klingensmith of the Fourth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?

- YES

Fourth District Court of Appeal

Shall Judge Martha C. Warner of the Fourth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?

- YES

Circuit Judge - 17th Judicial Circuit - Group 16

- George Odom Jr

School Board At Large - Seat 9

- Jeff Holness

Broward Soil and Water Conservation District - Seat 5

- Fred Segal

No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 2

Citizenship Requirement to Vote in Florida Elections

- NO



No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article X, Section 24

Raising Florida's Minimum Wage

- YES

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 5

- NO

All Voters Vote in Primary Elections for State Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet

No. 4 Constitutional Amendment Article XI, Sections 5 and 7

Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments

- NO

- NO

No. 5 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 4 and Article XII

Limitations on Homestead Property Tax Assessments; increased portability period to transfer accrued benefit

- NO

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII

Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities

- NO

County Referendum 1

Home Rule Charter Amendment Establishing Independent Inspector General

- YES

County Referendum 2

Charter Amendment Regarding Elections to Fill Mayor or Commission Vacancies During Primary and General Elections

- YES

County Referendum 3

Non-partisan Election of County Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections

- YES

Broward County Ballot Question Approves Special Law CS/HB 989 (2020) Relating to Broward

County's Governmental Functions

- YES

Broward County Charter Question County Regulation of the Development of Surtax-Funded

Transportation Improvements on County Property

- YES



Caribbean American Voters' Guide - Miami Dade County, General Elections 2020

President and Vice President Joseph R. Biden/Kamala Harris

Representative in Congress, District 23 Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Representative in Congress, District 24 Frederica Wilson

Representative in Congress, District 26 Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

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OUR CHAMPION.

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REQUEST YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT TODAY!

GO TO: WWW.SUNSHINE.VOTE

Vote for Democrats all the way down your entire ballot!

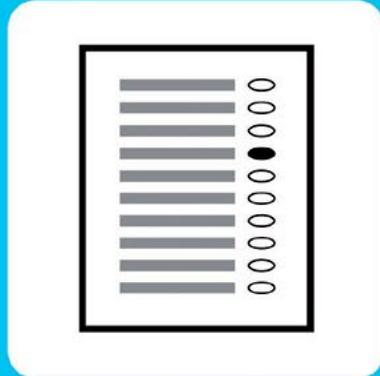
Go to www.sunshine.vote to learn more about your local Democratic candidates. Together we can work to improve our children's education, strengthen unemployment benefits, expand access to affordable housing, and create a government that truly protects us during the COVID-19 pandemic.



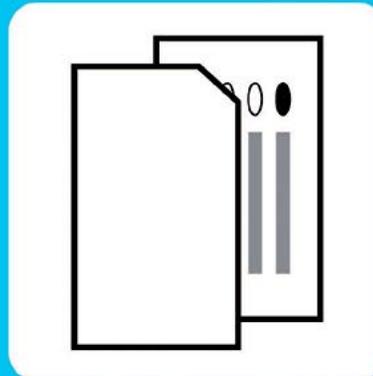
President Barack Obama

When you receive your ballot:

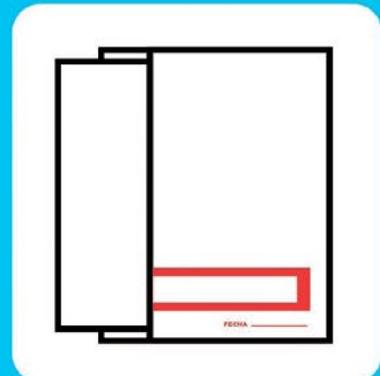
1 Vote for Democrats by filling in the bubbles next to their names



2 Insert your completed ballot into the provided secrecy sleeve



3 Place the sleeve with your ballot into the provided return envelope and seal it



4 Sign, date and send your Vote By Mail envelope without any delay!



Have questions? Need help?
Prefer to vote early in-person but don't know the nearest voting location?

Call the toll-free 24/7 Voter Assistance Hotline!
(833) VOTE-FLA or (833) 868-3352



Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried



Former First Lady Michelle Obama

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FLA DEMS

Caribbean American Voters' Guide - Miami Dade County, General Elections 2020

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Representative in Congress, District 27
Donna Shalala

State Senator, District 35
Shevrin "Shev" Jones

State Senator, District 37
Jose Javier Rodriguez

State Senator, District 39
Javier E. Fernandez

State Representative, District 103
Cindy Polo

State Representative, District 105
Maureen Porras

State Representative, District 110
Annette Collazo

State Representative, District 111
Ross Elde Hancock

State Representative, District 112
Nicholas Xavier Duran

State Representative, District 114
Jean-Pierre Bado

State Representative, District 115
Francesca Cesti Browne

State Representative, District 116
Bob Lynch

State Representative, District 118
Ricky Junquera

State Representative, District 119

Imtiaz Ahmad Mohammad

State Representative, District 120
Clint Barras

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Harvey Ruvin

Justice of the Supreme Court
Shall Justice Carlos G. Muñoz of the Supreme Court be retained in office?
• YES

District Court of Appeal
Shall Judge Monica Gordo of the 3rd District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

Shall Judge Eric William Hendon of the 3rd District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

Shall Judge Fleur Jeannine Lobree of the 3rd District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

Shall Judge Thomas Logue of the 3rd District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

Shall Judge Bronwyn Catherine Miller of the 3rd District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

County Commissioner, District 3
Gepsie M. Metellus

County Commissioner, District 5
Eileen Higgins

County Commissioner, District 7
Cindy Lerner

County Commissioner, District 9
Kionne McGhee

Mayor
Daniella Levine Cava

School Board Member District 3
Lucia Baez-Geller

School Board Member District 5
Mara Zapata

School Board Member District 9
Luisa Santos

No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 2
Citizenship Requirement to Vote in Florida Elections
• NO

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article X, Section 24
Raising Florida's Minimum Wage
• YES

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 5
• NO

No. 4 Constitutional Amendment Article XI, Sections 5 and 7

Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments
• NO

No. 5 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 4 and Article XII

Limitations on Homestead Property Tax Assessments; increased portability period to transfer accrued benefit
• NO

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII

Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities
• NO

Provides that the homestead property tax discount for certain veterans with permanent combat-related disabilities carries over to such veteran's surviving spouse who holds legal or beneficial title to, and who permanently resides on, the homestead property, until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property.

The discount may be transferred to a new homestead property of the surviving spouse under certain conditions. The amendment takes effect January 1, 2021.

Pro: Self Explanatory

Cons: Reduces the local government's tax base

County Referendum 1 Home Rule Charter Amendment
Establishing Independent Inspector General
• YES

County Referendum 2
Charter Amendment Regarding Elections to Fill Mayor or Commission Vacancies During Primary and General Elections
• YES

County Referendum 3

Non-partisan Election of County Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections
• YES



Caribbean American Voters' Guide - Palm Beach County, General Elections 2020

President and Vice President

Joseph R. Biden/Kamala D. Harris

Representative in Congress - District 21
Lois Frankel

State Senator - District 31
Lori Berman

State Representative - District 8
Omari Hardy

Clerk of Circuit Court
Joseph Abruzzo

Sheriff
Ric Bradshaw

Tax Collector
Anne Gannon

County Commissioner - District 7
Mack Bernard

Shall Justice Carlos G. Muñoz of the Supreme Court be retained in office?
• YES

Fourth District Court of Appeal
Shall Judge Martha Warner of the Fourth District Court of Appeal be retained in office?
• YES

Circuit Judge - 15th Judicial Circuit - Group 16
Jaimie Goodman

Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District-Group 2
Ann Marie Sorrell

Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District-Group 3
Nicholas Neal

Palm Beach Soil and Water

Conservation District-Group 4

Rob Long

No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 2
Citizenship Requirement to Vote in Florida Elections
• NO

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article X, Section 24

Raising Florida's Minimum Wage
• YES

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 5
• NO

No. 4 Constitutional Amendment Article XI, Sections 5 and 7
Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments
• NO

No. 5 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 4 and Article XII
Limitations on Homestead Property Tax Assessments; increased portability period to transfer accrued benefit
• NO

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII
Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities
• NO

Pro: Self Explanatory
Cons: Reduces the local government's tax base

County Referendum 1

Home Rule Charter Amendment Establishing Independent Inspector General
• YES

County Referendum 2
Charter Amendment Regarding Elections to Fill Mayor or Commission Vacancies During Primary and General Elections
• YES

Shall the Charter be amended to require that when the Mayor or member of the County Commission resigns prospectively to run for another office the vacancy will be filled by election during the Primary and General Election rather than by appointment or by subsequent Special Election?

County Referendum 3

Non-partisan Election of County Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections
• YES

Shall the Charter be amended to require, commencing with the qualifying for and holding of the General Election in 2024, that, contingent on a change to State law, the election of the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections be conducted on a nonpartisan basis and that no ballot shall show the party designation of any candidate for those offices?



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"I BELIEVE AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT ITS BEST WHEN WE'VE BEEN ONE AMERICA." JOE BIDEN

BIDEN HARRIS

As President he will:

- ✓ Provide a path to citizenship to long-time TPS holders through legislative immigration reform.
- ✓ Reinstate the DACA program.
- ✓ Ensure Dreamers are eligible for federal student aid and access to community college without debt.
- ✓ Reverse the regulation that limits student visas for Guyanese and Haitians to two years.
- ✓ Achieve equity in management, training, and higher education opportunities connected to the jobs of the future.

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WE NEED ELECTED OFFICIALS

WHO PUT THE LIVES AND NEEDS OF BLACK COMMUNITIES ON THE

FOREFRONT

- 1 Our children and our schools are not receiving a fair and adequate share of resources and **voting is how we ensure our children receive a fair and equal education.**
- 2 If the black community doesn't vote, **other people will continue to make decisions that affect our lives without our input.**
- 3 The black community needs **more jobs and better wages** and voting is how we can make that happen.
- 4 The best way to take control of our future is through **voting and civic participation.**

WE ARE ASKING THAT EVERYONE COMMIT TO GETTING **TWENTY** OF THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA FRIENDS.



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