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Bond Puts Jamaica Back In The Spotlight ... Page 2 (Getty Image)



Wyclef Speaks Out On Haitian Crisis ... Page 12

DUPED?

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Haitians deported from the United States recover their belongings on the tarmac of the Toussaint Louverture airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (AP Photo/Joseph Odelyn)

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Regional Caribbean News Round Up

Here are some top Caribbean news making headlines this week.

REGIONAL

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, says the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has wrecked the economies of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping as the United States announced it is

doubling its purchase of Pfizer's COVID-19 shots to share with the world to one billion doses.

Browne, who is also the chairman of the 15-member grouping, told the virtual Global COVID-19 Summit organized by the White House, that in some Caribbean countries, more than 20 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been lost; unemployment has risen; poverty

has expanded and demands on the state have multiplied, even as revenues have declined steeply.

He told the summit, taking place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that recovering from the economic effects of COVID-19 will be protracted, because hard won economic progress has been greatly reversed.

Browne said that the disease

must be stopped, and nations must act together to build a stronger, better, and more prosperous world.

He said CARICOM governments are committed to a global drive to inoculate 70 per cent of the world's population by September 2022, "including in our own countries."

Trinidad and Tobago

Two Caribbean born biological brothers have been charged with beating and raping the wife of the older brother.

Trinidad and Tobago nationals, 40-year-old laborer Ronald Mohammed, also known as Ronald Wendell Seepersadsingh and his 33-year-old brother, Kelvin Seepersadsingh, have been charged with the offences arising out of months of abuse by the woman's husband.

A magistrate in The Chaguanas Magistrate Court, however, released both brothers on a combined total of TT\$600,000 (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) bail.

The Court also ordered Mohammed to stay away from his wife after he pleaded not guilty to six counts of rape, three counts of threats to kill, two counts of choking, and one count of grievous sexual assault, grievous bodily harm and assault by beating, respectively. He was also ordered to report to his local police station three times per week as part of his bail conditions which were set at TT\$350,000 with a surety. His brother, who is also a laborer, pleaded not guilty to one count of rape and was granted TT\$250,000 bail with a surety and ordered to have no contact with the woman. He is also to report to police twice a week.

The brothers have also pleaded not guilty to the joint charges of two counts rape and one count of grievous sexual assault. They will reappear before the court on October 6th.

The police said that the woman alleged that on June 28th in the evening, her husband and his brother were both liming outside in the yard after which her husband came inside and demanded that she had sexual intercourse with him.

The woman, police said, refused and was made to proceed with sexual acts against her will. During the alleged incident, the woman reported that her husband's brother entered the bedroom and that he too engaged in sexual intercourse on her without her consent. It is alleged that these events are said to have occurred several times during the night in question.

After the incident, the man is said to have threatened to kill her if she reported the matter to the police. On August 4th, the woman experienced continued abuse but subsequently managed to escape.

Jamaica

The Caribbean nation of Jamaica has found itself in the global spotlight positively, as James Bond's 'No Time To Die,' opened globally last night. Add to the mix a Caribbean roots actress as Miss Moneypenny and the Bond series that so many love, is absolutely sprinkled with Caribbean love.

Naomie Melanie Harris, OBE, who returned in this movie as Eve Moneypenny, has roots that are distinctly Caribbean.

Her mother, Carmen Harris, emigrated from Jamaica to London as a child with her parents. Her father, Brian Clarke, a fashion designer, emigrated from Trinidad to the UK, and has British, Grenadian, and Guyanese ancestors.

The movie was filmed on



Behind The Scenes Footage Of Bond 25 as it was filmed in Jamaica. (Screengrabs: JTB video)

location in Jamaica – which also doubled for the Cuba scenes.

Even before Craig's stint as James Bond, 007 long had ties to Jamaica – from Dr. No (1962) to Live and Let Die (1973). Author Ian Fleming also had a home there himself and created and wrote all of his Bond novels at his Goldeneye villa in Oracabessa, a property that is now a luxury resort owned by music legend Chris Blackwell.

So, it makes perfect sense that the agent would wind up retiring on the island, the spiritual home of his character.

Bond's home in No Time to Die was specially-built on the shore, near Port Antonio. The island also doubled for Cuba later on in the movie, with exterior shots taken in Kingston, the seventh largest natural harbor in the world.

Costing over US \$200 million to produce, "No Time To Die" sees Bond come out of retirement in Jamaica to help track down a new villain, described by Oscar winner Malek as "mischievous(and) devious," and armed with lethal technology.

To celebrate Bond's return, the Jamaica Tourist Board has released behind-the-scenes footage of the filming process in Jamaica.

"It's really something we have dreamt about, and we are happy that it's going to be a reality," said Jamaica Culture Minister Olivia Grange.

Here are some of the behind-the-scenes screen grabs from the No Time To Die behind the scenes video footage as released by the JTB.

- Rewritten from CMC and NewsAmericasNow.com



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A White House Of Mixed Messages?



This is one of the images of a U.S. Border Patrol agent on horseback trying to stop a Haitian migrant from entering an encampment on the banks of the Rio Grande near the Acuna Del Rio International Bridge in Del Rio, Texas, on Sept. 19, 2021, that has stirred the ire of many. (Paul Ratje/AFP - Getty Images)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

The disturbing sight of over 15,000 Haitians taking refuge under the International Bridge in southwest Texas in September have not been the best optics for President Joe Biden's administration.

Images that appeared to show lassoing and horse whipping by U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback, added to the horror. The subsequent deportation of over 5,000 to date, including many women and children and nationals who have not lived in Haiti for a decade, has even Biden supporters likening his methods to the hardline policies of his predecessor Donald Trump.

Judy Lubin, founder and president of the Washington DC-based Center for Urban and Racial Equality (CURE), is among the rankled. Even though Biden has vowed the Border Patrol agents "will pay" for their perceived indiscretions, she is calling for an end to deportations.

"Our position is that the Biden administration should put a halt to deportations of Haitian migrants and discontinue the use of Title 42 -which legal experts including a federal judge have determined to be unlawful and inconsistent with international human rights standards for the treatment of asylum seekers," said Lubin.

"Title 42 is a Trump-era policy that was designed to prevent immigrants from the Caribbean, Latin America and African countries from migrating to the U.S.," Lubin explained. "The Biden Administration committed to making racial equity a priority in his administration. Defending and continuing the use of Title 42 to deport migrants under the false pretense that it is necessary because of COVID-19 is a betrayal of that commitment."

Born in the U.S. to Haitian parents, Lubin is a Miami-born sociologist and human rights advocate. The scenes of migrants huddled under the International Bridge in Del Rio, Texas, followed by fracas with Border Patrol agents, were strongly

condemned by many Haitian and Black Leaders, including in the Black Congressional Caucus, such as Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

Caribbean American Vice President, Kamala Harris, took days express what she called "grave concerns" over the treatment of Haitian migrants at the US' Southern border.

Many of the migrants

reportedly made their trek to the US Southern border after being left homeless by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of their country in August.

But the exodus started one month earlier, following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in July, an incident that triggered widespread violence.

Alix Desulme from Miami is chairperson of the National

Haitian American Elected Officials Network, which comprises 80 members in 17 states. He visited the migrants from September 23rd-25th.

"I spoke to the people who were under the bridge," Desulme told Caribbean Today. "I told them that not only do we feel bad, we feel disheartened and understand their situation."

Desulme, who was born

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

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CHANGING THE CURRENT



Caribbean Countries Bemoan Toll Of COVID-19 At UN General Assembly

BY NELSON A. KING

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries ensured their voices were well heard during the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that ended on September 27th, lamenting the dire, adverse effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on their respective economies.

The UNGA provided a platform for many regional leaders, some making their first address on the international stage, to unequivocally, capitalize on the theme for this year's UNGA, "Building resilience through hope

— to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations."

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley sought answers for a number of questions from the international community, ranging from climate change to a new world order that would allow for the global community to shape its own future destiny.

"I am not here to say I told you so," she said. "But I will say that we must move the needle! We must lead and we must act. How many variants of COVID-19 must arrive, before a worldwide

vaccination plan is implemented? How many deaths must it take, before 1.7 billion excess vaccines are shared?"

She called on the international community and people of the world to "indicate the direction that we must go in to save our planet and to save our people". Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness said the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated challenges in restoring the health and well-being of citizens, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), like his own, which already face limited resources in the health sector.

"Most regrettably, many lives have been lost and we extend condolences," he said. "There are increasing uncertainties as the pandemic continues and new variants emerge."

The Jamaican leader said while mitigation efforts to help to reduce transmission and mortality remain crucial, the long-term solution must be vaccines that are accessible to all.

"We know that vaccines only work if a critical threshold is attained. Sharing vaccines in a strategic manner serves the global common good, as no country will be safe until all are safe," Holness said.

Belize Prime Minister John Briceño declared that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought his country's economy to its "knees." In his maiden address to the UNGA, Briceño said the unemployment rate in his country reached 30 per cent, "as thousands of Belizeans lost their jobs."

He said the gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 14 per cent, the debt has "ballooned to 130 per cent of GDP," and that "many businesses were shuttered, the poverty rate increased to 60 percent, (and) "the impact of the pandemic has been swift, dramatic and devastating."

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris said that the past 18 months had provided challenges for everyone, warning that the battle against the pandemic is still very far from being over.

"The battle against COVID-19 is not yet won, and its devastating impact on our societies and economies continues. We believe strongly that no one is safe until everyone is safe, that requires equitable access to vaccines and other medical products and technologies," Harris said.

St. Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre said while the novelty and evolving character of the COVID-19 pandemic are baffling, it has enlarged and worsened the issues confronting SIDS.



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley addressing the UN General Assembly on Sept. 24, 2021. (UN Photo/Cia Pak)

"We continue to contend with the near-impossible balancing act of preserving lives and livelihoods," said Prime Minister Pierre in his maiden address to the UNGA.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said the raging pandemic of COVID-19 has put the world in a "veritable tailspin, even as the roll-out of the vaccines has eased the strain somewhat, particularly in the developed world."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has put the global community at the critical, proverbial crossroads. What is to be done? In tackling the pandemic itself, the old ways have tended to predominate, even as the sunlit rays of a possible new path have emerged," Dr. Gonsalves said.

He said "the pervasive inequalities that defined the pre-COVID political and socioeconomic order must not become tomorrow's nightmarish reality."

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is also chairman of the 15-member CARICOM grouping, said the lack of a global response and vaccination program to end the COVID-19 pandemic is "a clear and tragic example" of the failure of the international community to deliver policies to support peace, global health, the viability of the planet and other pressing needs.

"If developed countries had acted in a manner that allowed for the proper access to vaccines and medical supplies at the onset of the pandemic, globally we would be in a better place," Browne said. "Developing countries were not seeking handouts. Many of our countries paid into a global system that promised early access to vaccines. But it could not deliver because the majority of the vaccines from the major pharmaceutical companies had been bought or contracted and hoarded by a few wealthy nations, leaving the rest of the world bereft of the means to save their people."

Newly elected Bahamas Prime Minister, Phillip Edward Davis, called for equitable

distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

"It is also important to make safe treatments and therapeutics accessible and to designate them as public goods," said Davis, adding that the pandemic has made "abundantly clear what many of us have always known to be true: we are all in this together."

Another CARICOM leader making his maiden address on the global stage, Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, said the COVID-19 pandemic has "clearly highlighted, that when in crisis, seemingly international solidarity, has little, or no meaning."

He called for a post COVID-strategy, with a focus on, among other things, "developing an effective strategy to improve vaccination levels in our societies" and establishing a COVID 19 recovery fund, with support of the international financial institutions and the private sector.

Guyana President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali said "the peoples of our planet are living under a cloud of uncertainty."

"COVID-19 has stomped across the globe, taking lives, wrecking livelihoods and paralyzing economies. The pandemic has demonstrated our collective failure to come together and make joint decisions for the common good, even in the face of an immediate, life-threatening global emergency," President Ali, also in his maiden address, said.

Dominica's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Kenneth Darroux said his government has had to redirect scarce resources to combat the surge in COVID-19 cases, while increasing investment in primary health care services.

"Dominica firmly supports the view that vaccines are a public good and that no one is safe until everyone is safe," he added.

"Science has proven that vaccines are an important way out of this pandemic, and a coordinated response to COVID-19 is not possible without an open and supportive multilateral system."

Grenada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Oliver Joseph said his island continued to "grapple with COVID-19, its death toll, the negative impact on our economies, the social fallout, and the inequitable access to vaccines, particularly for small island developing states like Grenada, all of which undermine the stability and survival of our peoples."

Joseph said the socio-economic fallout from the pandemic has been especially severe for vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth and the unskilled, "who are overrepresented in the tourism and informal sectors, which were hardest hit by the pandemic."

- Edited from CMC.



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Two Years After Hurricane Dorian, Bahamians On Abaco Are Still Trying To Recover

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

It's been one year already since The Bahamas suffered colossal damage due to Hurricane Dorian's September 1st-3rd, 2019, reign of terror.

With sustained winds of 185 miles per hour, Hurricane Dorian is the most devastating force of nature to hit The Bahamas. Major centers like Nassau, the capital, and Freeport in Grand Bahama were hard-hit. But when it made landfall, the Abaco Islands were first to feel the brunt.

Two years later, residents there are still picking up the pieces. Martha Fleury, an American who has lived in Abaco for many years, lost her home in Treasure Cay, where she and her husband first visited 20 years ago. Its scenic landscape attracted them; they are now currently building another house in Abaco. "Most areas in Abaco are still struggling to recover from the destruction of Dorian as well as from the impact of COVID-19, she told Caribbean Today. "Due to the



Two years later, residents on the island of Abaco in The Bahamas, are still rebuilding following the devastation of Hurricane Dorian. (Abacostrong.org image)

fact that Abaco is a tourist-driven economy, the influx of money is greatly diminished. There is a significant amount of construction, however the pace is slow and is hampered by slow supply chains, and lack of funding."

Fleury said, "food security is still an issue, and jobs are hard to come by."

"In many communities, there is still a lack of infrastructure such as drinking water, sewage

service, schools, healthcare, and other community resources," revealed the president of Abaco Strong, a non-profit organization committed to restoring stability to the area, which has a population of just over 17,000.

Officially incorporated in January 2020, Abaco Strong is among several restoration

initiatives formed in The Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian. It has 20 members, comprising local businesspeople, and expatriates from the United States and Canada.

Treasure Cay, its largest community, is home to an estimated 100 families. Their rebuilding effort is driven by grants from organizations such as Lyford Cay Charitable Trust,

Treasure Cay Community Foundation, and Rotary Club of The Bahamas.

Fleury, a mother of four children, worked for many years with Xerox. A Maryland resident, she has been a communications manager with non-profit organizations in the US, which made her a shoo-in for the post of President with Abaco Strong.

"Our goals are primarily long-term, in terms of rebuilding sustainable communities," she said. "However, we have accomplished a lot in the last year. We have delivered over 300 mattresses and bed frames to families in need, supplied hundreds of meals, removed countless truckloads of debris, sponsored several community events for holidays and for community cleanup, repaired seven homes with three additional homes under construction that allow our families to return to their homes and to safe and healthy living conditions."

Dorian's devastation of The Bahamas cost an estimated \$3.4

billion. There was evacuation of over 6,000 homeless persons to Nassau while tourism, traditionally the country's largest source of foreign exchange, was temporarily shut down.

The government was still struggling to make ends meet when news of a mystery virus called COVID-19 began making the rounds in early 2020. Finding resources to restore a battered economy and contain a pandemic that has to date claimed 523 lives as of press time, has been challenging.

Relief assistance has come from partners in CARICOM as well as Bahamian citizens who live in the US and Canada. But, two years later, more help is needed to help residents cope and build back better, the mantra that has become one those in hurricane prone areas have come to embrace but fear.

(Written and reported by Howard Campbell; Edited By Felicia J. Persaud)



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NEWS



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Caribbean Closing In On 2 Million COVID-19 Cases

The Caribbean region is fast closing in on 2 million COVID-19 cases according to latest data from CARPHA, The Caribbean Public Health Agency. Latest data from the agency show there are 1,878,808 COVID-19 cases across 35 countries and territories in the region.

Of that number, 1,606,438 have recovered while there have been 23,206 deaths.

The majority of deaths and cases are in Cuba, followed by the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Jamaica.

Meanwhile, across the region, 20,310,811 have been so far vaccinated.

The news comes as the U.S. added the entire French Caribbean to its list of "Do Not Travel" nations, adding to the list of 7 Caribbean countries that have already been slapped with the Level 4 label.

The French West Indies includes the islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Saint Martin. This now brings to 10, the number of Caribbean islands Americans



A nurse administers a covid-19-vaccine to a Caribbean national. (PAHO image)

have been told to not travel to because of rising COVID-19 cases there.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued the Level 4 Travel Health Notice for Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Saint Martin, Monday, indicating a very high level of COVID-19 there.

The US is also warning Americans against travel to Guyana, Belize, Bermuda, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Haitian Migrants In Mexico Now Look At Working There

BY LIZBETH DIAZ

Many Haitians who are heading for the U.S. border as thousands of their compatriots were cleared out of a frontier camp on September 24th, are now giving thought to finding work in Mexico if measures to curb entry to the United States stay tough.

For weeks, Haitians have been fleeing economic, political and social chaos in their Caribbean homeland, with many thousands still on the move in Central America and Mexico, in the hope of a better life in the United States.

Thousands have fanned out across northern Mexico in recent weeks, spurring concern among officials that mass crossings such as those seen in Ciudad Acuna could happen elsewhere.

In the city of Monterrey a few hundred kilometers to the southeast, about 2,000 Haitians have gathered, tallies by migrant shelters show.

Marck Lender, a 30-year-old Haitian who had traveled from Chile, said he would sit tight until he obtained the papers needed to legalize his stay.

"I'm afraid of migration authorities, I don't want to be

deported," he said. "If I find work in Mexico, I'll be here."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said nearly 30,000 migrants had been encountered in Del Rio in the past two weeks and none were left in the camp there by Friday.

More than 12,000 migrants will have a chance to make their case for asylum before U.S. immigration judges, while an estimated 8,000 voluntarily returned to Mexico, and 2,000 were expelled to Haiti. Others detained wait to learn their fate.

Roberson, a 42-year-old Haitian soldier who had traveled from Brazil, said he was fed up with paying money to "guides" and had just submitted an application for asylum in Mexico.

"We've been really badly treated on the whole journey, and they've charged us a lot to get here," he said.

Roberson, who said he had a wife and children in Haiti, declined to give his full name.

He said he wanted to get a job in Monterrey, or in the border cities

of Tijuana or Mexicali.

Thousands more Haitians are moving through Central America, with others among an estimated 16,000 awaiting boats into the jungles of the Darien Gap in Panama, an often-dangerous bottleneck on the journey north.

Underlining the dangers they face, Panamanian authorities said on Friday they had found a skeleton and nine bodies of suspected migrants who drowned or died from heat stroke alongside rivers in Darien's region of Embera-Wounaan.

Haiti has been convulsed by natural disasters, gang violence and chronic political turmoil that came to a head in July with the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moise.

(Additional reporting by Elida Moreno in Panama City Editing by Dave Graham and Clarence Fernandez)

- Reuters



Caribbean Company In COVID-19 Vaccine Swindle Suit Gets Extension On Citizenship Request

A Caribbean company suing several US companies over a loss of millions and the non-fulfilment of an order for COVID-19 vaccines, has been given an extension to present proof detailing the citizenship of each individual they are suing, News Americas has found.

Attorneys for Radical Investments, a St. Lucia-based, Barbados company, filed a motion for extension with the court and received that extension on the original date they were supposed to present the information – Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. They now have until October 8, 2021, to provide the information to U.S. District Court Judge, Aileen M. Cannon.

Radical Investment according to the court filing, is suing: Good Vibrations Entertainment LLC, the only Florida registered limited liability company. The other defendants in the suit, according to court filings, are Alex Lee Moore, Jr., A/K/A Alex Moore, A/K/A Flex Moore of Prestige Pegasus LLC, a Colorado limited liability company; Moniladae Coley, a/k/a Moniladai D. Coley; Charles Z. Stein, ESQ., a/k/a Charlie Stein; Davidovich Stein Law Group, LLP, a California limited liability Partnership and RDS Cargo Group DWC LLC, a United Arab Emirates limited liability company.



Radical Investments Mark Maloney, r., was scammed out of millions in a COVID-19 vaccine deal for three Caribbean governments. (NANN Image)

U.S. District Court Judge Cannon recently ruled that "before the Court may assess whether there is diversity jurisdiction, plaintiff must submit allegations or proof detailing the citizenship of each of the defendants."

"The citizenship of one member may destroy federal diversity jurisdiction if complete diversity of citizenship does not exist between the defendant and all of the members of a plaintiff limited liability company," the judge wrote in Fort Pierce.

The plaintiff could face a dismissal of the case if the information is not presented.

The case was first reported by Barbados Today.

Radical Investments says the companies failed to deliver on an order for the jabs, leaving the plaintiff millions of dollars out-of-pocket. They are suing for US \$6,675,000.

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Miya Marciano's Family Attorney Calls For Accountability

The family of Caribbean roots Miya Marciano on Sunday night, Oct. 3rd, seemed to all accept she is dead, even though the Orange County Sheriff's Office has only said the body found Saturday is "believed to be" Miya's.

The family held a press conference to thank the public for their support as their attorney, Daryl K. Washington, stressed accountability. He did not say that the family has yet taken action against Arden Villas, where Mia lived and worked at the time she went missing, but he said he believed they were "negligent."

The Valencia College student went missing on Sept. 24 after she was last seen at Arden Villas Apartment complex. The building's maintenance worker, Armando Caballero, was named the prime suspect.

Police said they think Caballero, who worked as a maintenance man in Marciano's building, used a maintenance-issued key fob to open her apartment door.

They said Caballero had shown a romantic interest in Marciano but was "repeatedly rebuffed" as she did not feel the same way. He reportedly entered Marciano's apartment

using a master key just minutes before she was last seen at the apartment complex.

A warrant had been issued for his arrest, but before he could be caught and questioned, his body was discovered in the

was with the key fob."

Miya was the daughter of Trinidad born, US-based deejay Marlon Marciano, aka DJ Eternal Vibes and Giselle "The Wassi One."

The 19-year-old was set to fly to Fort Lauderdale on Friday evening, September 24th, but never boarded her flight.

The family also mentioned they will be starting a foundation in Miya's name to focus on safety at apartment complexes for young girls and college students like Miya.

Miya's father was present at the presser along with numerous family members, but did not speak.

"There need to be changes," Attorney Washington said on the family's behalf. "We're going to make sure another young girl doesn't have to deal with what Miya had to deal with."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Miya Marciano, r., and her Trinidad-born dad, Marlon Marciano, aka DJ Eternal Vibes. L. (Instagram image: DJ Eternal Vibes.)



Family Attorney Daryl K. Washington addresses the media on Oct. 3rd, 2021.

garage of another apartment complex by maintenance workers at that complex.

"This person should have not had that key fob, based on that person's record," Attorney Washington said. "The only way he was able to get access to that apartment without permission

DeSantis Takes Legal Action On Biden's Immigration Plans

Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis has taken legal action to try to stop the Biden administration's immigration plans.

DeSantis issued an order on September 28th, barring state agencies from assisting federal immigration efforts in the state. The governor's executive order bars state agencies from transporting undocumented migrants and requires agencies to collect information on the identities of undocumented individuals entering the state.

The order encourages law enforcement to vehicles they "reasonably believe" to carrying undocumented individuals.

Florida also filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration over the practice of permitting some undocumented migrants to enter the country while awaiting



Gov. Ron DeSantis

court hearings, which is allowed under Title 8.

"This executive order makes it clear that Florida resources will not be used to prop up the failed open border agenda enacted by this administration," DeSantis said in a statement.



Reggae Girlz And Las Sele To Face-Off In Inaugural Football Is Freedom Fundraising Match-Up

Cedella Marley, CEO of the Bob Marley Group of companies and currently in her seventh year as Global Ambassador for the Jamaica Women's Football Program, is now expanding her advocacy and commitment to the women's game of soccer.

Her new Football is Freedom Initiative, (FFI,) aims to provide tools and resources for the development and growth of women's football throughout the Caribbean and Latin America as well as diaspora communities in the United States.

Jamaica's Reggae Girlz and Costa Rica's Las Sele will both face-off in an inaugural fundraiser match on October 24th at 5 p.m. in Fort Lauderdale's DRV PNK Stadium.

Both teams will arrive in South Florida on October 18th for a week of training and a two-game series. In adherence to FIFA-mandated COVID protocols, the delegations will be housed in protective isolation during the camp.

The first match will be a closed-door scrimmage, and the finale will be a fundraising match open to the public.

The camp is the result of a combined effort by the Bob Marley Foundation, Rita Marley Foundation, and Reggae Girlz

Foundation. The match is being presented by Cedella Marley in association with Black Tower Agency.

"In the process of my role as ambassador, I have taken note of the crucial role that football can play in empowering young women; through opportunities for education and professional advancement (both on and off the pitch)," said Marley. "Through the Football is Freedom Initiative we can expand our efforts to other countries in the region and eventually beyond."

In addition to the main event, the event's festivities will include:

- Pre-Game kickoff party/ Fan Zone experience with games, entertainment, and food trucks
- Community Marketplace showcasing small businesses and organizations from the South Florida diaspora communities
- A musical halftime performance

Tickets will be available through Ticketmaster beginning October 6th. For information about group ticket purchases contact the production office directly via email: footballisfreedom@tuffgongmusic.com.

For vendor/food truck information contact Riddims Marketing (954) 251-1643.



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Mixing Story Telling With The Law ~ Attorney Jerry D. Hamilton

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

It's not just his 30 years of experience as a Board-Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, the success of the law practice, Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP (HM&B), he founded with two colleagues in 2006, or the national and industry accolades he has received.

Attorney Jerry D. Hamilton says it all boils down to authenticity and know how.

"It's important that you be yourself. If people recognize who you are and what you are about, then they gravitate to that authenticity," Hamilton told Caribbean Today recently.

"None of the flash is important if you really don't know what you're talking about," he added. "So, the preparation, the work ethic, and the competence, you add that to who you are, and that authentically shines through. I think that is one of the reasons that I have done well."

The Jamaican-born lawyer has been recognized as one of the Top Ten Defense Lawyers in the United States by one of the largest insurance companies in the world. He has been named 2022 Lawyer of the Year by the legal fraternity for his work in maritime law and insurance litigation. And these are just a couple of the honors bestowed on Hamilton for his work.

Hamilton was quick to point out that his success and that of

the firm is not just about him. He noted that he has a team of dedicated lawyers working with him.

"We are the largest black-owned firm in the state of Florida," he stated. "I think the recipe for what I believe has been the successes that I have had and the successes the firm has had is the authenticity, the preparation, work ethic, the competence, and the team behind you."

EL FARO

In fact, HM&B's practice areas include Admiralty and Maritime Claims, Insurance Defense, Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury and Wrongful Death, Medical and Professional Malpractice, among other areas. Although there have been many successes, these cases are not always about celebration based on the nature of the circumstances said Hamilton.

"When I'm called in to represent clients, generally there has been some disaster, some catastrophe, or some tragedy. Under those circumstances it's not necessarily something to celebrate because there are a lot of people who have been hurt, passed away, and families are hurting," the lawyer explained.

The El Faro event was one such case. Hamilton explained that El Faro was a cargo ship that left Jacksonville in 2015 on its way to Puerto Rico with 33 crew members in addition to its

cargo. Unfortunately, the vessel encountered Hurricane Joaquin and the crew, and the ship were lost at sea. HM&B was the lead trial counsel on the case.

"It was my proudest moment because what I saw was the entire industry that I represented come together to really resolve all those claims and to take care of the families within 19 months," revealed Hamilton. "We were transparent, we communicated well, we had great teamwork."

"It taught me a lot about recognizing that our job is not only just to be a mouthpiece for corporations. But we must make sure we are sensitive and compassionate to the families and make sure the companies do the right thing," he added. "Because it's not just about profits over safety."

REBEL

Hamilton has the natural mannerisms and confidence it takes to be a good lawyer. So, did always aspire to the legal field? One thing is for sure, it is in his blood. Not only is his father a lawyer who still practices in Jamaica, his grandfather was also an attorney. But this third-generation lawyer had to first let loose the rebel in him before recognizing his true calling.

After graduating from one of Jamaica's noted high schools, St. George's College at 16 years old Hamilton migrated to the



Attorney Jerry D. Hamilton

United States and decided to take up accounting, just to break the tradition. But, after his first year his accounting professor told him to quit, it just wasn't his game. Then he saw the lawyer within himself.

"I can tell you that it truly came from watching my 'old man' and having my mother being so supportive and pushing me in that direction," he revealed. "So, that's why I became a lawyer. I've not regretted it. It's been 30 years and I've loved every minute of it."

So, how does he prepare for a case, especially those that could probably go through years of litigation based on their nature? The celebrated lawyer said it's all about quiet time.

"I really just need to be in my thoughts and to be sitting

down quietly being mindful of what it is that I need to do," he disclosed. "I'm thinking about it in multiple ways because even though I have gone to law school and even though I am a Board-Certified trial lawyer, remember that the folks I will be standing up in front of in a court room didn't go to law school. They are not going to understand the legal vernacular that I'm going to throw at them."

His next move? He comes up with the simplest way to explain the case, then talks to his children about it. And if they get it, then he's on the right track. If they don't get it, he goes back to the drawing board and locks himself in a room.

"Whether you test it with your children or a mock environment with others, you have to test it and get the feedback to make sure that you've honed it to a pinpointed theme," advised Attorney Hamilton. "Then you tell your story, because at the end of the day it's storytelling, with a mixture of what the law says."



Monetizing Mucky Seaweed In The Caribbean

BY CASSANDRA GARRISON, SARAH MARSH AND JAKE SPRING

As the sun rises in Mexico's Quintana Roo state, home to the white sandy beaches of Cancun and Tulum, Rear Admiral Alejandro Lopez Zenteno readies his sailors for another day of dragging rafts of brown seaweed to shore and out of view of cocktail-sipping tourists. Zenteno heads the operation for the Mexican Navy, which coordinates with the state and local governments to protect an area visitor trade that was valued at more than \$15 billion annually before the coronavirus pandemic hit, according to Quintana Roo's tourism secretariat.

When it washes ashore, the plant — known as sargassum — turns black and emits a sewage-like stench so powerful it has been known to make travelers ill. It attracts insects and turns the area's famed turquoise snorkeling waters a sickly brown. And it just keeps coming. Since 2011, seaweed here and across the Caribbean has exploded for reasons scientists suspect is related to climate change but don't yet fully understand. In Quintana Roo alone, Mexico's Navy since March has removed more than 37,000 tons of



It is unclear is why the Caribbean sargassum blooms have grown to such monstrous masses.

sargassum — more than the weight of three Eiffel Towers — from beaches and surrounding waters.

"We don't expect this to end anytime soon," Zenteno said onboard a seaweed-clearing ship known as a "sargacero," one of 12 deployed by the Navy.

Entrepreneurs across the region, meanwhile, are searching for ways to monetize the muck. They're experimenting with seaweed-based products including animal feed, fuel, construction material — even signature cocktails.

"Sargassum is seen as a nuisance," said Srinivasa Popuri, an environmental scientist in Barbados with the University of

the West Indies. He views the Caribbean as "blessed" with a resource that grows naturally and requires no land or other inputs to flourish.

Popuri is working on extracting substances from seaweed that could have applications for the pharmaceutical, medical and food industries.

Whether such efforts prove viable remains to be seen. Commercializing seaweed can be challenging given the expense of collecting it.

Still, creativity is blossoming along with the seaweed.

SARGASSUM SOLUTIONS

One of the biggest potential uses lies in demand for so-called alginates, a biomaterial extracted from brown seaweed, which is a common ingredient in food thickeners, wound care and waterproofing agents for its gel-like properties.

The global market in 2020 was worth almost \$610 million, a figure that's expected to grow to \$755 million by 2027, according to consulting firm Global Market Insights.

Omar Vazquez, meanwhile, is building houses.

Vazquez, a nursery owner in the seaside town of Puerto Morelos near Cancun, for several years had used sargassum as a

fertilizer. In 2018, he came up with the idea of turning it into a construction material. He said the resulting sargassum "bricks," baked in the sun, allow him to build a house 60% cheaper than if he were to use traditional cement blocks.

Now dubbed "Señor Sargazo" by his neighbors, Vazquez said he has built and donated 10 such houses to local families in need. He hopes to turn his now-patented "Sargablock" material into a for-profit franchise.

"Everyone was complaining that sargassum was stinky, sargassum is a problem. What I did was find a solution for it," said Vazquez, 45, showing Reuters around "Casa Angelita," the first house he built with seaweed and which he named for his mother. The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Cancun found a tastier use for sargassum. For a time, it served up a cocktail made with tequila, vinegar, sugar, rosemary and a syrup derived from sanitized seaweed.

Some businesses are nervous about relying on a resource with variable supply: There's no way to know how much might grow in a year.

Others are concerned that large-scale harvests for business initiatives might lead to sea turtles and other endangered creatures

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Cages, Horsewhips And The Hypocrisy Of It All

We have now gone from the era of brown children in cages, to the era of white men on horses chasing down innocent black migrants like runaway slaves, grabbing them by their clothing as horse reins are waved like whips and lassos.

Three years after Donald Trump, we as immigrant voters, who largely voted to get rid of the dark days of Trump's immigration terror, now feel like its déjà vu. As one of my colleagues summed it up: 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.'



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

What is more nauseating is the fake outrage that has taken days to emerge from the Biden White House and administration, even as immigrants from Haiti were already being shipped back to a country they had not lived in for years and which has no capacity to accept them.

The mounted U.S. Border Patrol agents were called out and sent to help stop more Haitian immigrants from crossing the Rio Grande in Del Rio, Texas on September 19, 2021. This occurred after thousands of Haitian migrants managed to cross the river on Sept. 17th and set up an encampment on the banks of the Rio Grande near the Acuna Del Rio International Bridge in Del Rio, Texas.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas initially said the agents were trained to respond the way they did to migrants. But he then backtracked when President Biden condemned the agents in front of reporters, subsequently appearing on CNN to say that "one cannot weaponize a horse" against migrants.

By then, hundreds of Haitian migrants were already deported back to Haiti as US DHS had announced the policy beginning on Sat. Sept. 18th after the convergence under the bridge.

It then took Joe Biden's immigration czar and vice president, Kamala Harris, three days after the rein whip photo emerged from the border to express "grave concerns." She did not make a live statement in an interview, but said this through her chief of staff, that all border agents should "to treat people with dignity, humanely and consistent with our laws and our values."

I call BS on that. The reality is that Harris has been using Donald Trump's own policies to try to get the border crisis under control, including pushing Central American governments to get tough with migrants before

they get to the US border.

For more than a week before, as the caravan of migrants tried to make it to the border to apply for asylum, Mexican agents had arrested, chased, and roughed up Haitian migrants as the US administration pressured Mexico to contain the migrants.

But like most politicians, hypocrisy was on full display. It was so bad that Joe Biden's own appointed special envoy for Haiti, Ambassador Daniel Lewis Foote, quit in a letter to US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on Sept. 22nd. Ambassador Foote blamed the "inhuman" and "counterproductive" decision to deport thousands of Haitians back to a country where armed gangs are in control of daily life.

Of course, the administration quickly pounced on Foote. How dare he defy them and speak out? Under the bus he was thrown, faster than the US' exit from Afghanistan and faster than Donald Trump would have tweeted his firing, even though he had resigned.

By Thursday, Sept. 23rd, under pressure from all sides, including Democratic and immigrant leaders, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced that Border Patrol agents will be forbidden from using horses to guard the border in Del Rio, Texas, referencing the "horrific" photos of agents swinging reins while responding to Haitian migrants.

Then came President Biden's sensational statement on Day Four of the Drama: "To see people treated like they did, horses barely running over, people being strapped – it's outrageous. I promise you, those people will pay. There will be an investigation underway now and there will be consequences. There will be consequences."

Are these the same promises you made in 2019 and 2020 to immigrant voters and Haitian voters Joe? Please spare me!

By then, over 2,000 Haitians were already back in Haiti.

And so, the hypocrisy album played on, like a scratched record. So much for Black Lives Matter; so much for having a Caribbean American vice president in the US White House; so much for Biden's pledge to immigrants and especially Haitian voters in 2019; and so much for having a Haitian spokesperson in the White House in Karine Jean-Pierre.

And so, the beat goes on – as immigrants and immigrant voters again become the pawns in the US' political con game of 'Fool The Immigrants.' Sorry Haitians but looks like duplicity wins again.

~ The writer is publisher of *NewsAmericasNow*



Romantic Stages



they either are living together for a period of time or make it official by getting married. It's now a union, as they now live under one roof. But this stage can be tricky, for as the old saying goes, "See me and come live with me are two different things."

At this stage they have their own version of TLC, and I don't mean Tender Loving Care either, but Tolerance, Loathing and Contempt. This is the stage when tolerance is tested to the limit, the little things that were overlooked



TONY ROBINSON

and he resents her spending so much time yacking on the phone with her girlfriends.

Even seemingly innocuous things like him watching too much sports on TV or her spending too much time on her hair is contemptuous to both.

Then comes the final stage. By now the passion has waned, if not completely disappeared. Either he has lost his desire, or she has. Now they're in the companionship stage, living like roommates, as all the fervent passions are but memories of decades long gone.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.*



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Sad Stories Of Unvaccinated People Who Died Must Jolt Us To Become Vaccinated

BY DR. JERRY JAILALL

While the Pope urges COVID inoculations, saying “vaccines are humanity’s friends,” Guyana’s Education Minister Manickchand revealing that 17 schools closed in one week as teachers test positive, Minister Anthony revealing a one-day record of 313 new COVID cases, and the High Court (as expected) denying injunctions against Government’s COVID measures, it is so sad to read all the sorrowful headlines of unvaccinated people gone too soon. Right here in Guyana, there was a story from Bella Dam, Pouderoyen, West Bank Demerara – “Mother, daughter die from COVID-19 7 days apart; family urges vaccination to save lives.”

In California, USA, “Five children are now orphans after both father and mother die of COVID.” Daniel Macias, 38, taught middle school math. His wife, Davy Macias, 37, a labor and delivery nurse, died days after giving birth while on a ventilator. Neither had been vaccinated against the coronavirus. The baby and other children, ages 7, 5, 3 and 2, are being cared for by their grandparents. The children are still asking for “mommy and



Get The COVID-19 vaccine today.

daddy.”

“In Alabama man dies after 43 ICUs full of COVID patients turned him away.” The family of an Alabama man who died of heart issues is urging people to get vaccinated after they say he was turned away from 43 hospitals in three different states because COVID cases were taking up all the ICU beds. This could happen in Guyana too. The letter below from a family friend, Heidi Judd, a US school employee gives some perspective on this vaccination issue:

“I’m vaccinated!! And – no, I don’t know what’s in it – neither this vaccine, the ones I had as a child, nor all that’s in my Starbucks coffee, or in the skin care products I love, or in

other treatments...whether it’s for cancer, AIDS, the medicine I take for menopause hormonal regulation, or the current, routine vaccines for infants or children. I trust my doctors when they say it’s needed. I don’t have the education and knowledge they have. That’s their wheelhouse. I also don’t know what’s in Ibuprofen, Tylenol, or other meds, it just cures my headaches and my pains.

I don’t know every ingredient in my soap or shampoo or even my deodorant. I don’t know the long-term effect of cell phone use or whether or not that restaurant I just ate at REALLY used clean foods and washed their hands. In short, there’s a lot of things I don’t

know and never will ...I just know one thing: life is short, very short, and I still want to do something other than just going to work every day or hanging out in my home. I still want to travel and hug people without fear and find a little feeling of life “before.”

As a child and as an adult I’ve been vaccinated for mumps, measles, rubella, polio, chicken pox, and quite a few others; my parents and I trusted the science and never had to suffer through or transmit any of said diseases ... just saying.

I’m vaccinated, not to please the government but:

- To NOT die from Covid-19.
- To NOT clutter a hospital bed if I get sick.
- To hug my loved ones
- To NOT have to do PCR or antigenic tests to go out to the movies, go to a restaurant, go on holidays and many more things to come.
- To live my life.
- To help my college-aged daughter have a typical student life.
- For Covid-19 to be an old memory.

• To protect us – me, my family, you and yours.

This is not a political argument. This is not a conspiracy. This is a virus that we can overcome. Folks, sometimes we have to cajole people to do the things we know would make them better, such as children who don’t like taking medicine or eating their vegetables. Vaccines save lives.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Jerry Jailall is an Education Consultant at the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), North Carolina, USA. He has served in education for 25+ years at the elementary-, middle-, high-, and university levels in Guyana, the Bahamas, the USA and the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Jailall holds five degrees and several certifications in education, has written chapters in books and journal articles, and is Co-author of a Corwin Press bestseller, *The Principal as Curriculum Leader: Shaping What is Taught and Tested*.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Monetizing Mucky Seaweed In The Caribbean

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

being scooped up indiscriminately.

Still other efforts are waiting on scientific testing for safety. In Jamaica, entrepreneur Daveian Morrison is building a processing plant to scale up his experiments, including turning seaweed into charcoal for people to burn in lieu of firewood. He said his recipe for animal feed made from the protein-rich plant proved a hit at a local goat farm, but it needs more testing to ensure the seaweed doesn’t contain dangerous levels of arsenic or other harmful substances.

In Barbados, a University of the West Indies research team is distilling sargassum along with waste from a rum distillery to make methane, which can be turned into compressed natural gas to power transportation across the island.

“There is this beautiful coincidence that the ocean is producing all this biomass,” said Legena Henry, a renewable-energy lecturer at the university. She said she’ll soon be converting her own car to run on the fuel, with the hopes of a wider rollout next June.

SEAWEED EXPLOSION

Sargassum is most famously found in the Sargasso Sea in the north Atlantic, where the seaweed has been documented for hundreds of years. How it traveled south to the tropical Atlantic is unclear.

Some scientists have theorized that the intense 2010 hurricane season may have carried a bit of it to the central western Atlantic, planting the seeds for a new sargassum belt that now

stretches nearly 9,000 kilometers.

That seaweed explosion “might just reflect the system going over some tipping point,” said biologist Joseph Montoya at Georgia Tech University. “We don’t know.”

Also unclear is why the Caribbean sargassum blooms have grown to such monstrous masses. Scientists say climate change, water pollution, Amazon deforestation and dust blowing in from the Sahara Desert are all likely factors.

New research published in May in the journal *Nature Communications* points to another suspect: Major rivers – including notably the Amazon – are pumping more human sewage and agricultural runoff into the ocean, where the nutrients are likely fertilizing the sargassum.

The University of South Florida has been tracking sargassum since 2011 and it recorded a significant uptick in 2015. In May, a record 18 million metric tons were detected by satellite in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean. That’s up nearly 6% from the previous May record set in 2018, and up more than 800% from levels seen a decade ago, according to Chuanmin Hu, an oceanographer at the University of South Florida.

(Reporting by Cassandra Garrison in Puerto Morelos, Jake Spring in Brasilia and Sarah Marsh in Havana; editing by Katy Daigle and Marla Dickerson)

- Reuters



It is with great personal sadness that I announce the death of **Marilyn Chin**. Our dear beloved friend and coworker who passed away suddenly on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Marilyn has been a member of our sales staff since 2016. She was truly dedicated to the company and her clients. Our office will never be the same now that Marilyn is gone. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this trying time.

Peter Webley
Publisher

Deportations To Haiti Could Reach 1,000 Per Day

Deportations from the US, Mexico, the Bahamas and Cuba to Haiti could reach 1,000 per day.

That's according to officials of the Haiti National Migration Office (ONM) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jean Négaud Bonheur Delva and Giuseppe Loprette, respectively.

"This is the challenge," said Giuseppe Loprette, responsible for the IOM in Haiti. "I take this opportunity to appeal to other countries to consult the Haitian authorities before planning flights because there is also a limit to the capacity to receive people."

Loprette argued that Haiti's international airport also has limited space. And security situations should be avoided as much as possible.

"The migrants must be given time to arrive and receive assistance," argued Loprette.



Two Haitian migrants bit federal law enforcement officials on board a deportation flight when the plane was taxiing to the runway on Sept. 21st at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas.

Each migrant is allocated the equivalent in gourdes of 120 US dollars or 12,000 gourdes.

"We have limited means

to deal with all of this," said a worried Loprette.

Between September 19 and 29, 2021, the United States,

operating 7 to 8 flights per day, have already expelled 5,405 Haitian compatriots from their territory. There are 1,238 children among these migrants returned to Haiti.

Mexico and the Bahamas will soon follow suit, Delva said.

Haiti continues to face an escalation in violence and insecurity, with at least 19,000 people internally displaced in the capital Port-au-Prince in the summer of 2021 alone, (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) said.

They all are calling on states to refrain from expelling Haitians without proper assessment of their individual protection needs, to uphold the fundamental human rights of Haitians on the move, and to offer protection mechanisms or other legal stay arrangements for more effective

access to regular migration pathways.

Well over 20 percent of girls and boys have been victims of sexual violence in Haiti, the groups said. In addition, nearly 24 percent of the population, including 12.9 per cent who are children, live below the extreme poverty line of US\$ 1.23 per day.

Some 4.4 million people, or nearly 46 percent of the population, face acute food insecurity, including 1.2 million people who are in emergency levels and 3.2 million people at crisis levels. An estimated 217,000 children suffer from moderate-to-severe acute malnutrition.

"This situation is bound to worsen as a result of the August 14th earthquake straining any capacity to receive returning Haitians," the statement added. "Conditions in Haiti continue to be dire, and not conducive to forced returns."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



U.S. Can Keep Deporting Migrants Using Title 42

BY MICA ROSENBERG

A U.S. appeals court ruled has ruled that the Biden administration can continue expelling migrant families caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border under a COVID-19 pandemic order while a lawsuit challenging the policy proceeds.

The order, known as Title

to seek humanitarian benefits" they are entitled to under immigration law, he wrote. The order was set to take effect on September 30th, but the Biden administration appealed.

The judge's order only applies to families and not to single adults.

"We are disappointed in the ruling, but it is just an initial step in the appellate

country that has been devastated by a political crisis and multiple natural disasters. The U.S. special envoy to Haiti resigned in protest over the expulsions.

The camp has now cleared, with several thousand other migrants still in U.S. custody awaiting processing and others released into the United States to face U.S. immigration court hearings.

Biden has faced growing criticism from some health experts, immigration advocates, and fellow Democrats to stop applying the Title 42 order, that has essentially cut off access to asylum for hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Biden in February exempted unaccompanied children from the expulsion policy and his administration had been applying it to fewer families apprehended at the border in recent months. In August, the Biden administration expelled about 19% of families apprehended at the border under Title 42.

The Biden administration has said the Title 42 policy remains necessary to limit the spread of the coronavirus, although it has not provided scientific data to support that rationale.

(Reporting by Mica Rosenberg in New York; Additional reporting by Kristina Cooke in San Francisco; editing by Grant McCool)

- Reuters



Expelled migrants arrive on September 19, 2021, at the airport in Port au Prince. (Photograph: AFP)

42, was issued in March 2020 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under former President Donald Trump, which cited the need to limit the spread of the coronavirus. A federal judge ruled on Sept. 16 that the policy could not be applied to families, but the administration of President Joe Biden appealed the ruling.

In his original ruling against the Biden administration, Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia wrote that the public health law the Title 42 policy is based on does not authorize the expulsions of migrants.

Expelling asylum seekers denies them the "opportunity

litigation, and nothing stops the Biden administration from immediately repealing this horrific Trump-era policy," Lee Gelernt, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement.

Biden, a Democrat, faces pressure from Republicans over the number of border arrests, which have hovered around 20-year highs.

A camp of nearly 15,000 Haitians in South Texas who had crossed the Rio Grande River from Mexico ramped up attention on the issue in recent days. Using the Title 42 policy, the administration rapidly expelled thousands of people – including families with small children – back to Haiti, a

A White House Of Mixed Messages?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

in Haiti, has lived in the US since he was seven years old. He is frustrated with the "mixed messages" from the White House and insists the Haitian migrants are being targeted because of race.

"No human being should be treated the way they were treated. They were treated that way because they are black," he stated.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has defended the Biden Administration's stewardship of the border crisis. But on September 26th, he told NBC's Meet The Press: "I'm intensely and immensely proud of the men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In fact, in Del Rio, Texas, I saw them act heroically."

This as the US' own appointed special envoy for Haiti, Ambassador Daniel Lewis Foote resigned, citing the "inhumane" and "counterproductive" decision to deport thousands of Haitians back to a country where armed gangs are in control of daily life.

The tough letter addressed to US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, also stated that his recommendations on Haiti have been ignored and slammed the US' support last week of the "unelected, de facto" prime minister, Dr. Ariel Henry.

"The hubris that makes us believe we should pick a winner

– again – is impressive," Foote wrote as White House and State Department officials quickly moved to throw him under the bus and accuse him of lying. Biden and Mayorkas have promised there will be a comprehensive probe into the Del Rio standoff. The White House has criticized the use of horse reins to threaten Haitian migrants after images circulated of a U.S. border guard on horseback charging at migrants near a riverside camp in Texas.

Republicans for their part have continued their mantra that the Biden administration has encouraged illegal immigration by relaxing some of the hardline policies put in place by his predecessor, former President Donald Trump.

Judy Lubin believes there must be consequences since both Biden and Harris has actively pursued the Haitian vote in Florida to win in 2020.

"A full investigation of abuses at the border is needed and those responsible for verbal and physical abuse including using horses and reins to intimidate migrants should have their employment terminated," she said. "There can be no tolerance for that type of behavior from U.S government employees."

(Written and reported by Howard Campbell for Caribbean Today. Edited By Felicia J. Persaud)



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Apple Uses Caribbean Song In New Product Reveal

Caribbean music has been put in the spotlight by Apple as it revealed its new product line-up recently.

The song “Winner Walk,” which was produced by Jus Now and features XOriginals, a popular dance group from Trinidad and Tobago, has been used by Apple in its global advertisement and product reveal, including if the iPhone 13.

Jus Now comprises of Trinidadian musician Keshav Chandradath Singh and Sam Interface of the United Kingdom. The song features the signature percussive elements of Jus Now combined with Xander’s vocals. It was initially released before the pandemic on UK label More Time Records.

Xander described the feeling of hearing the song on an Apple ad as unreal.



Jus Now's song was used in an Apple Commercial.

“Having it synced on an Apple Inc. Commercial piece of content is unreal for us, yeah it’s exciting but more so it gives us that extra confirmation that our ideas can go farther than we think.”

“Our song is in a new @apple commercial presenting their new line of products!,” the group posted on Instagram.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Wyclef Speaks Out About Border Crisis As Fugees Reunite

Haitian-born, Grammy-winning musician Wyclef Jean focused his comments on the inhumanity of the Haitian migrant crisis in Texas as he kicked off a reunion tour on Sept. 22nd as part of the Fugees.

The Hip-hop group The Fugees, which rose to fame in the 1990s, reunited again – at least to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their seminal album, The Score.

Jean and Pras, along with Lauryn Hill, opened their 2021 reunion at Global Citizen Live at Pier 17 in New York City as he challenged President Joe Biden to fix the problem and asked that news outlets not misconstrue his words.

It was the first live show of the group in 15 years. They performed hit songs, including Fu-Gee-La, Ready Or Not and their cover of Killing Me Softly, all from the album, which topped the Billboard 200 in the US and charted at number two in the UK in the 1990s.

The trio closed with a pensive take on Bob Marley’s “No Woman, No Cry,” with Jean taking the lead and Hill backing him, in harmony. They locked



The reunited Fugees performed at Pier 17 in NYC in support of Global Citizen Live on Sept. 22, 2021. (Getty Images for Global Citizen)

arms, with Hill between Pras and Wyclef, as they kicked off their reunion – as solid as it sounded.

The Fugees tour starts in Chicago on November 2nd. They will play eight US dates in total before a show in Paris and then at the O2 in London on December 6th. The tour will finish with gigs in Nigeria and Ghana.

The Fugees, whose name actually is the shortened version of the word ‘Refugees,’ made a huge impact on hip-hop music in the 1990s and won two Grammy awards for The Score and Killing

Me Softly. The Score went on to have estimated sales of more than 22 million worldwide, placing it among the best-selling albums of all time. Following a break-up amid tensions in the band, all three musicians went on to have solo careers. But they reunited in 2004 and 2005 only to split again. Now they have reunited again.

- Rewritten from NewsAmericaNow.com



VP Records And Jah Cure Release “Welcome To Jamaica”

Get ready for a tour of Jamaica with Grammy-nominated reggae star Jah Cure.

The lyric video takes viewers on a journey from white sand beaches to a man playing a drum to express the vibrancy that makes Jamaica unique. Further in the lyric video and between the sunrise and sunset, views of Jamaica’s landmarks and culture makes the case for the country’s magnetism.

Acting as a visual tour guide, Jah Cure curates select scenes from some of his favourite spots in Jamaica which



coordinate with the lyrics in his song. The combined visuals and music provide a backdrop that

showcases the land that produced all-star athletes, world-renowned musicians and performers, and one of a kind cuisine. Check out the video on YouTube.

“Welcome To Jamaica” is exclusive to this year’s collection of Reggae Gold. The sweet ode to the nation that has given Reggae to the world is an enticement that will encourage visitors to visit and catch some sun and enjoy the country’s vibes.



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Caribbean Recipe Of The Month ~ Camarofongo Or Shrimp Mofongo



This month, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with this Caribbean recipe from the Dominican Republic. It's Camarofongo or Shrimp Mofongo and here's how to make it according Dominican Cooking.com.

INGREDIENTS

Plantains

- 4 unripe plantains, peeled
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup olive oil
- 8 garlic cloves, mashed

Shrimp

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil

- 4 plum tomatoes cut into cubes or 1 doz cherry tomatoes halved
- 2 bell peppers, cut into small pieces
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 cup of tomato sauce
- ½ cup of water
- 2 lb [0.9 kg] of shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ½ teaspoon of pepper, (or more, to taste)
- 1 ½ teaspoon of salt, (or more, to taste)

METHOD

Wrap the plantains: Cut 4 pieces of aluminum foil big enough to wrap a plantain in each.

Place each plantain on a piece of aluminum foil and wrap tightly.

Roast the plantains: Cook in preheated oven at 350 °F [175 °C]. oven for 1 hour.

Remove one from the oven, cut in the middle and make sure it is cooked through. If it isn't,

wrap again and cook for 15 more minutes.

Remove from the oven and cool for 5 minutes.

Cook garlic: In a pan heat olive oil over very low heat. Stir in garlic and sprinkle with salt.

Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, and making sure the heat is low enough that the garlic does not burn or change to a dark color. Set aside.

Make plantain balls: Unwrap the plantains.

Mash one by one in a mortar and pestle, adding to each plantain ¼ of the oil and garlic.

Form each plantain into a ball, or scoop into a bowl and make a hole in the center (see picture); and serve with the shrimp.

Bon Appetite

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Jerk Festival For Orlando



The 8th Annual Florida Jerk Festival: Orlando Edition, is set for Sunday, October 24, 2021 from 2PM – 10PM at Lake Lorna Doone Park located at 1519 West Church Street.

The event will feature various Jerk-seasoned bites from an array of Central Florida

restauranters while in this year's Jerk Experience Bar includes an unlimited tasting experience of all things Jerk.

It will also feature international reggae band Third World, Jamaica's dance hall icon Baby Cham, Trinidad's Soca Superstar Nadia Batson and US

Virgin Island soca icon Pumpa.

After taking a one year hiatus due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Florida Jerk Festival decided to rebrand their popular Caribbean-American foodie festival, merging their West Palm Beach and Orlando festival brands together as one and launching a new website, floridajerkfestival.com.

Early bird ticket pricing begins at \$40 for general admission and children 12 years of age and under are free. VIP tickets are \$150 and include access to the all-inclusive VIP bar with unlimited food and drinks, and close to stage proximity.

Tickets are available for purchase on the site.



Lauderhill Location Of Donna's Caribbean Restaurant Ordered Shut

The Lauderhill location of Donna's Caribbean Restaurant At 4200 NW 12th Street was recently ordered closed by inspectors with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The inspectors found 23 violations that largely stemmed from live roaches.

The report said that: roach activity was present as evidenced by live roaches found in the main kitchen compartment sinks and crawling underneath the compartment sinks and the main kitchen mop



Donna's Caribbean Restaurant

sink space next to the reach in cooler.

Roaches were also seen crawling on the main kitchen

prep table while employee was preparing food and in the front-line steam table underneath the steam table tray line.

Six live roaches were also reported crawling at corner seams of pot rack wall in front of walk-in cooler while 8 were seen on the kitchen cable box area at the walk-in cooler. Another was also

seen on the kitchen front counter entrance.



7 Must-Have Pantry Items That Will Elevate Your Baking Recipes



If your casual baking hobby has turned into an obsession, you're in good company. Baking swept the nation as a way to pass the time in 2020, with an overwhelming 84% of respondents identifying as bakers in an end-of-year Packaged Facts survey of Americans.

However, there's a difference between good and great baking, and it all starts with what's in your pantry. According to the Baking at Home experts, here are seven must-have items you need to take your at-home recipes for breads, cobblers, cakes and more to the next level, as well as tips for using these pantry essentials to their fullest potential.

1. A Flour-Based Baking Spray

As every home baker knows, one of the trickiest steps of any recipe is the final one – releasing your treat from the pan without damaging it. If you've had a few failed attempts, you may have seen your creations go from masterpieces to flops in just a few short, heartbreaking seconds. To stick the landing every time, (and never see your efforts go to waste again) try using a flour-based baking spray like Baker's Joy for an easy release from the pan, and faster, more successful baking overall.

2. Shortening

While many view shortening and butter as interchangeable, they're not the same. Be sure to reach for shortening any time you want your recipe to rise high and retain its shape or to attain that perfect flaky pastry or crust. Making plant-based swaps? An all-vegetable shortening like Crisco can be successfully used in place of butter for an all-vegetable twist on classic recipes.

3. Baking Powder

The workhorse of many recipes, one can't overstate the importance of a dependable, double-acting baking powder. To that end, stick with tried-and-true brands like Clabber Girl, which has been making pastry perfection for over 100 years. Pro tip: quickly test baking powder's efficacy by mixing a teaspoon with hot water. No

fizzing reaction? Time to toss it.

4. Baking Soda

Baking soda is the wild and more potent cousin of baking powder, so it's important not to get them mixed up, especially as baking soda is often specifically called for in recipes containing an acid (think buttermilk and citrus.) While there are many liberties you can take in the kitchen, guessing how much baking soda to use is not one of them. Always measure the exact amount listed to avoid a bitter taste in your finished product.

5. Premium Spices, Seasonings And Herbs

Any serious baker worth their salt will have a "go big or go home" mentality when it comes to spices. Give dishes extra depth by culling your collection to include only high-quality selections that pack a punch, like Spice Islands. Remember, keeping spices dry prolongs flavor, so place your rack in a cool, dry place away from oven heat.

6. Molasses

When mixed with white sugar, molasses can make a great substitute for brown sugar, but that's just one of its many uses. A pantry staple and American tradition, it's vital in dishes where moist consistency and depth of flavor are essential, such as pecan pie or gingerbread. Molasses from iconic brands like Grandma's Molasses can also be the ooohs-and-aahs-provoking secret ingredient that has friends and family reaching for seconds.

7. Vanilla Extract

Whether you're cutting back on added sugars or you're simply low on the sweet stuff, you can use vanilla extract as a flavorful, better-for-you sugar substitute. For more baking tips, as well as recipe ideas and tutorials, visit bakingathome.com. With a well-stocked pantry and a good understanding of your ingredients, your creations will come out just the way you want them, every time.

- *StatePoint*



TRAVEL



www.caribbeantoday.com

The US Now Warns Against Travel To 10 Caribbean Countries As CHTA Responds

The US State Department and the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC), is now warning against travel to 10 Caribbean countries. The US added The French West Indies includes the islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Saint Martin to the 'Do Not Travel' list on September 27th.

Previously slapped with the label are: Guyana, Bermuda and Antigua & Barbuda as well as Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Belize and Grenada.

The updated advisory on the 7 Caribbean countries, most of which are tourism dependent, comes as Vanessa Ledesma, Acting CEO and Director General of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), said that there has been no indication that the increase in travel to the region over the past several months has contributed to any significant spread of the virus.

"According to contact tracing analysis provided by several of



The US is now also warning Americans against travel to Bermuda

the region's destinations which are monitoring this, the level of COVID-19 transmission between residents and visitors has been negligible," said Ledesma, who added that testing of departing travelers returning to major source markets has shown insignificant positivity rates.

The travel trade association veteran believes that travel warnings based on COVID-19 positivity levels can be misleading. "We have gone to great lengths to produce the safest possible corridors in our tourism-

related communities," she assured, adding that "Caribbean travel is safe and continues to get safer."

Ledesma shared that the Caribbean's commitment to health safety started long before the beginning of the pandemic, and its multi-agency collaborative approach helped to jumpstart the training of nearly 8,000 of the region's tourism industry supervisors, managers and owners.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaica Salutes Tourism Stalwart

Jamaican tourism executives are paying tribute to the passing of Sue McManus, described as a public relations specialist and a major contributor to the development of the island's tourism industry.

She died in South Florida on September 16, 2021, and at the time of her death, was still involved in tourism as a marketing consultant. The British-born McManus has been described as both "tireless and fearless" and someone who dedicated her life's work to tourism.

Jamaica's Tourism Minister Ed Bartlett, in extending condolences, said that Jamaica has lost a treasure and a "true pioneer."

"I am quite saddened at the passing of Sue McManus," said Bartlett. "She was, indeed, a stalwart in the tourism sector who went beyond the call of duty to promote destination Jamaica. She played a pivotal

role in promoting numerous resorts and attractions across the length and breadth of the island, which would have contributed to the impressive flow of visitors to our destination over the decade."

"She not only made Jamaica her home, but she also dedicated most of her life to helping to promote our tourism product and building Brand Jamaica," he added. "She was, indeed, a true professional and she will be greatly missed by the entire tourism family," Bartlett added.

Former president of the Jamaica Hotel & Tourist Association (JHTA), Josef Forstmayr, said: "Sue was one of the best in the business and her passion for making Jamaica shine in international media circles was legendary."

- Rewritten from CMC



Do You Need A Vaccine To Travel To The Caribbean?



Ensure you check ahead of time to see if the destination is open to vaccinated travelers only.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nearly every tourist destination on the planet, with the Caribbean being no exception. While there are some islands that do not have any problem with unvaccinated travelers, others are taking measures to ensure only vaccinated people enter their borders.

Barbados, St. Lucia, and the British Virgin Islands are among the islands in the Caribbean that require unvaccinated travelers to quarantine for several days on their arrival. That means a person or family would have to add quarantine time into their vacation, which can drastically reduce the time you can enjoy the beach or explore the Caribbean islands.

There are a total of seven other islands that now have policies that every traveler must show proof of vaccination on arrival. These islands include:

- Anguilla
- Cayman Islands
- Grenada
- St. Barts
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- Trinidad and Tobago

- Turks and Caicos

There are other islands that do not have a vaccination requirement, but unvaccinated individuals may find their travel options are beginning to look limited or unappealing.

Why Require Vaccines?

Caribbean islands are taking various factors into account when making a decision regarding vaccine requirements. One criterion is protecting the locals who live and work on the islands, as they are often interacting with travelers daily at hotels, resorts, restaurants, bars, beaches, and other tourist spots.

There is also a school of thought that suggests areas that put in vaccination requirements for travel can encourage more people to visit them in 2021. People who want to remain safe from COVID-19 while traveling may be more likely to book a stay at St. Barts or St. Kitts and Nevis if they know a vaccine requirement is in place.

How To Ensure A Smooth Trip

Anyone who has not taken a COVID-19 vaccine and wishes

to visit the Caribbean has two options: they can either choose an island that does not have any vaccine requirements, or they can get a COVID-19 vaccine before their trip.

There are various COVID-19 vaccines available around the world, with many first world nations allowing people to make appointments or walk in for their shots on the same day.

Most vaccines take two to three weeks to provide a proper immune response, which means travelers may want to schedule their shot in advance of their

scheduled departure dates.

Beyond ensuring you are vaccinated or picking an island with loose COVID-19 policies, there are other steps you can take to enjoy your upcoming vacation to the Caribbean.

Plan Ahead of Time To Avoid Last Minute Chaos

Many travelers make the mistake of not checking destination vaccine requirements in advance of their trip.

Imagine getting ready for your flight, experiencing the journey, arriving at a Caribbean

Island, and then discovering you cannot get through customs without proof of vaccination or a mandatory quarantine!

Do not put yourself through such hassle. Ensure you have the vaccine paperwork in order before your trip, or double check that you are only visiting Caribbean islands that place little to no restrictions on unvaccinated travelers.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



World's First Underwater 'Space Station' Is Coming To This Caribbean Island

As more and more focus shifts to climate change and rising sea levels, the world's first underwater 'space' station is coming to the Caribbean.

Renowned aquanaut, ocean explorer and environmentalist Fabien Cousteau of Proteus Ocean Group, will launch his project, PROTEUS, in Curacao.

It is conceived as the underwater version of the International Space Station; it will be a platform for global collaboration amongst the world's leading researchers, academics, government agencies, and corporations to advance science to benefit the future of the planet.

PROTEUS is being promoted as "the world's most advanced underwater scientific research station and habitat to address humanity's most critical concerns: medicinal discoveries, food sustainability, and the impacts of climate change."

PROTEUS™ is envisioned to be more than four times the size of any previously known underwater habitat, and will

feature state-of-the-art labs, sleeping quarters, and a moon pool. PROTEUS™ will include the first underwater greenhouse, allowing inhabitants to grow fresh plant life for food, marking a unique approach to address some challenges that come with underwater living, such as not being allowed to cook with open flames. The habitat will be sustainably powered by hybrid sources including wind and solar. It will include a full-scale video production facility to provide continuous live streaming for educational programming, and delivery of augmented and virtual reality to collaborators world-wide.

Cousteau was recently on the island to conduct a site mapping with a team of 4 experts from Map the Gaps and R2Sonic. Cousteau and Proteus Ocean Group are working with Map the Gaps and R2Sonic to map the entire marine-protected area, covering a total surface area of 1,482 acres of reef and 1,077 acres of inner bays, in Curaçao.

Map the Gaps is a non-profit organization formed of maritime mapping professionals, students and industry partners committed to growing awareness and increasing diversity in ocean mapping. R2Sonic provides technologically advanced multibeam echosounders that deliver high quality of data. In this project R2Sonic is dedicated to help collect the hydrographic data and share it so that all of us can learn more about our underwater terrain.

Together, these organizations will provide vital data and a deeper knowledge base to benefit Curaçao, by enabling sustainable conservation measures. It will also provide critical information for the site of the first PROTEUS™, which is planned to be located off of the Island of Curaçao, at a depth of 60 feet (3 atmospheres), in a marine-protected area.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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CITY OF MIRAMAR NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND PURCHASE ASSISTANCE HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS

The City of Miramar announces the availability of approximately **(\$3,294,065)** in Housing Rehabilitation. The source of this funding is **\$1,631,678** in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding, approximately **\$224,677** in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding, and approximately **\$1,437,710** in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Housing rehabilitation funds will be used for the City of Miramar's housing initiatives for very-low, and low-income households, with priority given to special needs households.

Pre-screening forms will be distributed to ALL Miramar residents via U.S. mail for the Minor Home Repair Program. Prescreen forms may also be obtained by visiting Community Revitalization Affiliates, Inc. or by downloading from the websites www.crasouthfl.com or www.miramarfl.gov

Residents interested in the Housing Rehabilitation Program MUST return their completed pre-screening form to Community Revitalization Affiliates, Inc. IN-PERSON no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021. No forms will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on November 11, 2021. No forms will be accepted by email or regular mail.

**COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AFFILIATES, INC.
3350 SW 148TH AVENUE, SUITE 110, MIRAMAR, FL 33027
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
For questions regarding the pre-screening form, please call 954-939-3271**

No pre-screening forms will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021. The pre-screening form is NOT an application.

Community Revitalization Affiliates will review all pre-screening forms to determine applicant eligibility. Those who qualify will receive a letter, email or phone call stating the specific date, time and location application will be distributed. Those who do not qualify will receive a letter stating they do not qualify for the program.

If you have received assistance from the City of Miramar previously you may not be eligible for additional assistance.

If you are a person with special needs/disabled and need assistance, you MUST call (954) 939-3271 no later than Wednesday, November 10, 2021 by 4:30 p.m.

HOUSING REHABILITATION FUNDS

Program Description	Amount
Housing Rehabilitation Program - Provides assistance to approximately 36 households to correct building code violations, make barrier-free modifications, install hurricane protection, address weatherization improvements, promote energy efficiency/conservation and address other minor home repairs to owner-occupied properties in the City. Available to very low, and low and households up to 80% AMI. Priorities given to households with special needs and very low to low income.	(\$3,294,065)

Household Size	Maximum Income Limit – Minor Home Repair (up to 80% AMI)
1	\$49,300
2	\$56,350
3	\$63,400
4	\$70,400
5	\$76,050
6	\$81,700
7	\$87,300
8	\$92,950

PURCHASE ASSISTANCE FUNDS

There is approximately **\$465,222** available in Purchase Assistance in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding. Purchase Assistance funds will be used for the City of Miramar's housing initiatives for very low and low-income households, with priority given to special needs households. Applications will be processed on a first come, first qualified, first served basis in the order the applications are received and funds are encumbered.

Purchase Assistance Applications will be available ONLINE @ www.crasouthfl.com or www.miramarfl.gov and for PICKUP beginning Monday, November 8, 2021 AT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AFFILIATES, INC. 3350 SW 148TH AVENUE, SUITE 110, MIRAMAR, FL 33027 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Purchase Assistance Applicants MUST attend a MANDATORY "Homeownership Counseling Workshop" prior to receiving assistance.

Program Description	Amount
First-Time Homebuyer Program - Provides down payment and closing cost assistance to approximately 14 very-low and low-income applicants. The amount of assistance per household will vary with income level. Priority will be given to households with special needs (Disability and Seniors).	\$465,222

Household Size	Very Low Income 31%-50% AMI and Lower	Low Income 51% to 80% AMI
1	\$30,800	\$49,300
2	\$35,200	\$56,350
3	\$39,800	\$63,400
4	\$44,000	\$70,400
5	\$47,550	\$76,050
6	\$51,050	\$81,700
7	\$54,800	\$87,300
8	\$58,100	\$92,950

Effective April 1, 2021, the Median Family Income for Ft. Lauderdale HMFA (Broward) is \$73,400. Maximum Housing Value - \$331,888

Information on the programs may be obtained by visiting www.crasouthfl.com or by calling (954) 939-3271 for more information.



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Denise A. Gibbs, CMC
City Clerk



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Caribbean Born AC Milan Goalkeeper Says He Is No Victim Of Racism

AC Milan's Caribbean-born goalkeeper, Mike Maignan, is taking back the power following an incident of racist abuse from a fan on Sept. 19th in Italy.

The French Guiana-born Maignan insists: "I am not a 'victim' of racism." Instead, he said: "I am Mike, standing up,

black and proud."

In a video that appeared on social media, a person could be heard hurling racist insults at Maignan, a French international player, as he warmed up just before the match Sunday against Juventus in Turin, Italy.

The man was identified by



Goalie Mike Maignan

Juventus and the police "through the video surveillance system of the stadium" and reported to the judicial authorities, according to an investigator of the police in Turin contacted by AFP.

He is to be prosecuted for "incitement to racial hatred" and faces a fine and a stadium ban, according to this source.

The supporters' club to which the suspect belonged announced on its website his immediate expulsion, "firmly dissociating itself from such behavior and condemning it strongly."

Maignan, who arrived in Milan this summer from Lille, called for a concerted response.

"We need to be more and all united in this battle against a societal issue bigger than football himself," he wrote in a social media post in French, Italian and English. "Do the people who take decisions know what it feels to hear insults that portray us as animals."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



West Indies Women Rank Higher Than Men In Latest ODI Rankings

The West Indies women cricket's team rank higher than the men's cricket side in the latest ODI (One Day International) rankings released Friday by the International Cricket Council, (ICC).

The ranks show the Windies women's team ranking at 6th globally, ahead of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ireland in the Top 10. This comes after the Windies women scored 1,702 runs from 21 matches.

The men's side is ranked 8th globally and are behind Bangladesh but ahead of Sir Lanka and Afghanistan in the Top 10. This comes are 30 matches in which the Windies' men scored a total of 2,523 runs.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Former Cricket West Indies Staffer Dead From COVID-19

Condolences are pouring in for former Cricket West Indies marketing and communications manager Imran Khan, who died on Sept. 28th from COVID-19.

Khan was unvaccinated and died in Guyana. He was 42.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Ricky Skerritt and West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) president Wavell Hinds are among those paying tribute to Khan, who at the time of his death, was the chief communications officer for the Leader of Opposition in Guyana, Joseph Harmon.

"Imran loved cricket and he loved working with the Caribbean cricket media who highly regarded him and his work," said Skerritt. "I had the opportunity to work with Imran when I served as West Indies team manager several years ago. I found him to be a skillful professional and an effective servant of West Indies cricket. He continued to be an ardent team supporter even after he left CWI to return home to his native Guyana. I have had the privilege of being in contact with him since, and his advice and wisdom were always welcomed. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

"It is with great regret that I learnt of the passing of Imran Khan, who has served West Indies cricket so well," added Hinds. "I had the pleasure of being a part of the West Indies team while Imran served as media liaison for several home and away series, and his love and passion for West Indies cricket was always evident in the way he carried out his duties. In



Imran Khan

fact, Imran's contribution goes beyond his role as media liaison, as he was of great assistance to several players during his tenure. My sincere condolences to his family, friends, and the cricketing fraternity. May his soul rest in peace and light perpetually shine upon him."

Khan is survived by his wife, attorney-at-law Tammy Khan, who was also hospitalized for the virus. He spent the last week of his life in the intensive care unit of the COVID-19 hospital in Liliendaal on the outskirts of the Guyana capital, Georgetown, where he died.

Before returning to Guyana to get into active politics with the A Partnership for National Unity-Alliance for Change (APNU+AFC) coalition, Khan held several posts in and around West Indies cricket, including media relations officer for the Windies team, where he worked closely with Skerritt as manager and Hinds as player.

- Rewritten from CMC



Windies Former Batsman Slapped With Corruption Charge

Retired West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels has until today, Oct. 5th, to answer corruption charges made against him in breach of the anti-corruption code of the International Cricket Council.

The ICC said in a media statement last month, that it charged Samuels, on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), with breaching four counts of the anti-corruption code for participants in a Ten10 league the Board hosted.

The alleged offences include failing to disclose the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality, or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that could bring the participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute; failing to disclose receipt of any gifts and hospitality worth \$750; failing to cooperate with the anti-corruption investigation; and obstructing or delaying the

investigation by concealing information.

Samuels, 40, has been given until today to respond to the charges. Cricket West Indies (CWI), the governing body for the sport in the Caribbean, said in a separate statement that it had been made aware of the charges. CWI said the charges related to Samuels' involvement in a T10 league staged two years ago in Abu Dhabi.

Samuels represented the Karnataka Tuskers, but he did not play a single match.

The West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) also said it had conducted extensive anti-corruption seminars as part of its player development and welfare program over the past seven years.

Samuels played 71 Tests, 207 One-day Internationals and 67 Twenty20 Internationals for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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flalottery.com/brightfutures



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<http://www.miamidade.gov/police/contacts-homicide.asp>



HIT & RUN FATALITY



VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN

Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

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

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

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

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit www.CrimeStoppers305.com and select "Submit a Tip"
- Visit www.facebook.com/crimestoppers305 - "Contact Us"
- Visit the App Store - Get P3 and sign into Miami for Tips

If the tip leads to the arrest of the subject(s), the tipster may be eligible for a reward UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00. All calls are kept strictly anonymous.

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

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

Add African Swine Fever To Haiti's Latest Woes



A pig rummages in trash in Delmas, Port-Au-Prince.

BY TOM POLANSEK

Haiti has recorded its first outbreak of the fatal pig virus African swine fever in 37 years, the World Organisation for Animal Health said, fueling concerns about the disease's spread in the Americas.

An operation in Anse-à-Pitre, near Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic, suffered an outbreak that began on Aug. 26th, the Organisation known as OIE said in a report.

The detection is "unfortunate" but not surprising due to recent cases in the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said on Tuesday. The agency is consulting with animal health officials in both countries.

Outbreaks on Hispaniola raise worries that African swine fever could spread to the United

States, which has never had the disease, and temporarily cripple U.S. pork exports. Governments often block imports of pork from countries where the disease has been found to prevent transmission.

The United States already prohibits Haitian and Dominican pork due to another pig disease there, according to the USDA.

Still, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is increasing inspections for illegal pork on flights from Hispaniola and making sure airplane garbage is properly disposed of, the USDA said.

The USDA in July reported the Dominican Republic had the Americas' first cases of African swine fever in nearly 40 years.

Last week, the USDA confirmed Haiti's outbreak through testing at a laboratory on Plum Island in New York, the OIE said. Haiti

is conducting surveillance for the disease and imposed a quarantine to control the outbreak, the OIE said.

African swine fever is harmless to humans but often fatal to pigs. It originated in Africa before spreading to Europe and Asia and has killed hundreds of millions of pigs.

The disease spread rapidly in China starting three years ago and wiped out half the country's hog herd within a year.

In Haiti, the outbreak is the latest challenge for residents and the government following an earthquake, gang violence, the president's assassination as well as the deportation of thousands of migrants back to the country from the US.

*(Reporting by Tom Polansek;
Editing by Alison Williams and
Richard Pullin)*

- Reuters



Miami Cancer Institute Is Now First And Only APEX Accredited Proton Therapy Facility In Florida

The Miami Cancer Institute, part of Baptist Health South Florida, has been granted full accreditation by the ASTRO Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX®) for a four-year term, effective August 10, 2021. With this accreditation, Miami Cancer Institute is now one of only seven radiation oncology facilities in the state of Florida to have received this prestigious honor, and the first and only APEX accredited proton center in Florida.

This APEX accreditation validates that Miami Cancer Institute has and will continue to have systems, personnel, policies and procedures in place to demonstrate dedication to high-quality patient care, a respect for protecting the rights of patients, and being responsive to patient needs and concerns.

Miami Cancer Institute brings to South Florida access to personalized clinical treatments and comprehensive support services delivered with unparalleled compassion. No other cancer program in the region has the combination of cancer-fighting expertise and advanced technology—including the first proton therapy center in South Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean, and one of the only radiation oncology programs in the world with each of the newest radiation therapies in one place - to diagnose and deliver precise cancer treatments that achieve the best outcomes and improve the lives of cancer patients.

- Rewritten from CMC



Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot

The Community Health of South Dade (CHI) in Homestead is now offering booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccines.

You can get your vaccine booster there on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The CDC recommends that people in the following groups should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completion of their 2nd dose

Pfizer series:

- People aged 65 years and older.
- Adults 18+ living in long-term care settings.
- People aged 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions.
- People aged 18-49 with an underlying medical condition.
- People ages 18-64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19; exposure and transmission due to working or residing in certain settings.



Windies Former Batsman Slapped With Corruption Charge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

West Indies, scoring 11,134 runs and taking 152 wickets across all formats, and retired from international consideration in November last year.

The highlight of his career were two sparkling half-centuries that earned him Player-of-the-Match awards in the finals of the 2012 and 2016 ICC Twenty20 World Cups in Sri Lanka and India respectively, that helped

the Windies claim the titles. Samuels, however, spent two years on the side-lines 13 years ago, when he was handed a two-year ban by the ICC for "receiving money, or benefit or other reward that could bring him or the game of cricket into disrepute."

- Rewritten from CMC



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Public Health Expert Finds Herself Facing Real Life Crisis

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

Ever since she was a little girl, Thometta Cozart has looked up to her father as a hard-working, humble and soft-spoken, yet a fun-loving man, who is often the life of the party.

"He's always been the center of our family for events, parties and celebrations," she recalls. "And he gives to his detriment."

Named partially after him, Thomas, and her mother, Loretta, Thometta is their only child. She recalls him working long hours on construction sites to install electric poles and lines. In her mind, he was a pillar of strength and hard work.

But in May of 2019, their relationship changed forever when he suffered a hemorrhagic (bleeding) stroke. In a sense, they drew closer with the uncertain prognosis. Would he face long term paralysis? Would his speech be slurred? How much would this debilitating stroke affect the future of a man who has served as a surrogate father to so many?

Because of her job as multicultural outreach and health equity director of the Epilepsy Foundation, Thometta Cozart knew how to prepare for potentially the worst outcomes. With proper nutrition, intense physical therapy, cardiac care and medication, her father had a fighting chance to recover and live

a good life. Because he decided to put his health first for a change, Mr. Cozart, now 67, is still progressing.

"My dad experienced some cognitive delays, slurred speech, and a weakening of his limbs, which caused him to need physical, speech and cognitive therapy afterwards," Thometta explained. "After the stroke, he retired from his job and went on Disability. With therapy, he regained his strength to take care of himself and speak clearly. His memory has also improved. But he does need some things to be explained to him multiple times or slowly explained to him."

A realist who often leans on her faith, she also knew that the kind of stroke that her father had suffered - the ischemic stroke caused by blood clots- increased the chances that he might experience seizures in the future.

Seventeen months later, on Oct. 10, 2020, her fears were realized. Thomas Cozart, with no history of seizures or epilepsy, had a seizure while at home watching TV with a friend who noticed that his eyes had rolled to the back of his head, he had begun to convulse and was in a state of confusion. His friend called an ambulance and was able to recall the seizure first aid resources Thometta had offered her family.

Once again, her education and experience kicked in. Because



Thometta Cozart, I, and her dad and stroke survivor, Thomas Cozart.

she knew that strokes are a major contributor to how African Americans develop epilepsy, as her father's chief medical advocate, she had to make sure that he had a neurologist, who was knowledgeable about seizures, on his medical team.

Although his doctors did not directly attribute the seizure to the stroke, the implication was clear, she said: "His doctors advised that he more than likely had a seizure as a result of his stroke."

In addition, there were still issues with managing his blood pressure, and there was atrial fibrillation (Afib), she said, which is a quivering of the heart or

irregular heartbeat, which may have also contributed to him having additional seizures if he hadn't seen a neurologist right away.

He was given Keppra, an anti-epileptic medication known as a first line of defense against seizures. Largely because of that, she said, not only has he not had another seizure nearly a year later, but neither does he have epilepsy.

Thomas Cozart is fortunate that his daughter's profession has empowered her with knowledge that has gone miles to help her with his care and health advocacy. But millions of people around the nation know little about the

connection between seizures and stroke.

And health disparities among African Americans are sometimes due to a lack of knowledge about how to prevent a stroke; much less the seizures that might result from one.

"I do this work every day - talking about inequities and injustices in the health care system," said Thometta.

Studying notes and charts, she has learned much. "But this situation has caused me to have to live it," she said. "There is a bias in the health care system where if you don't have people advocating and holding people accountable, the patient may not get adequate care. This is due to various factors. But it's often because of race and implicit bias of some healthcare providers."

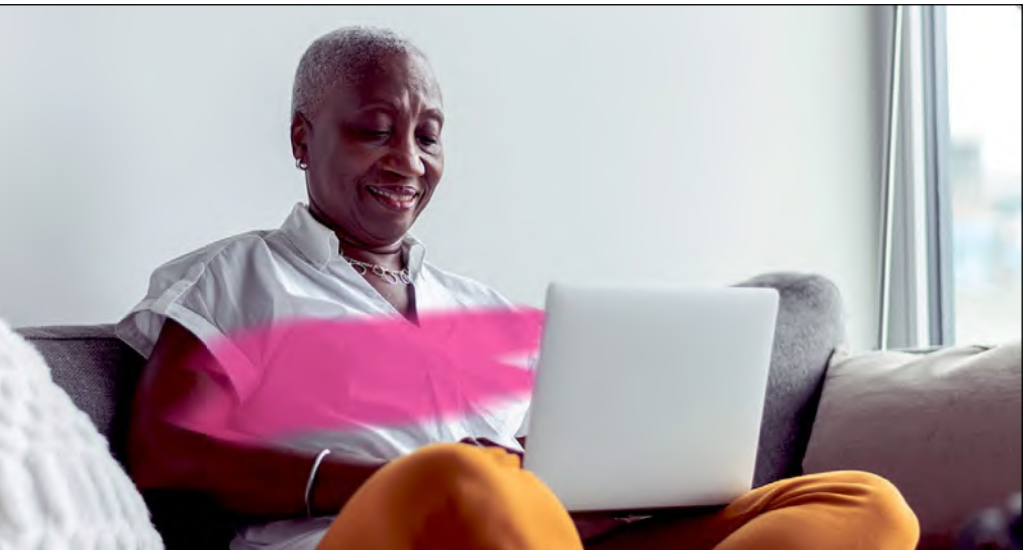
"Epilepsy and strokes are two significant public health issues that have serious risks, yet lack awareness," said Brandy Fureman, Ph.D., chief outcomes officer, Epilepsy Foundation. "Our collaboration with the American Stroke Association is important to provide stroke survivors, particularly older adults, with the tools they need to improve their quality of life, as well as educate their loved ones on Seizure First Aid."

Like most health disparities,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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*Source: Cancer.org.

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Health**

Older Adults Shouldn't Delay Preventive Health Care

Many older adults have been delaying preventive health care during the pandemic because of fear of visiting the doctor's office. As more people get vaccinated for COVID-19, now may be a good time to make up for gaps in care, according to Dr. Gina Conflitti, chief medical officer for Medicare Advantage at Cigna.

"Delaying preventive care can catch up with us, especially as we get older," says Dr. Conflitti. "As people age, preventive care becomes increasingly important in helping prevent or manage chronic conditions. Doctors' offices have nationally accepted, evidence-based COVID-19 safety protocols in place and many preventive services are covered by Medicare or Medicare Advantage at no extra cost when visiting a participating or in-network provider."

Each person's doctor should determine the right services based on age, gender, medical history and health status. Among those to consider are:

Annual wellness visit

Covered by Medicare, this is a great way to develop a personalized annual care plan. Among other things, the doctor will ask the patient to fill out a health risk assessment to help determine the services likely needed in the year ahead. The doctor will assess how the patient is feeling physically and emotionally, since mental health often impacts physical health. It's important for the patient to be open about their feelings, current condition, and medical history.

Mammogram

Breast cancer is the second



Don't skip your annual tests.

leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every woman is at risk, but risk increases with age. Fortunately, breast cancer is often treated successfully when found early. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends women 50 to 74 at average risk get a mammogram every two years.

Colorectal screening. Like breast cancer, colorectal cancer risk increases with age. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps early so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. The USPSTF recommends screening for adults aged 45 to 75. Medicare covers the cost of a screening colonoscopy once every two years for those at high risk or once every 10 years for those at lower risk. Though colonoscopy is the most comprehensive test, providers can help determine the best option for individuals.

Bone Density Scan

USPSTF recommends women aged 65 and older be routinely screened for osteoporosis, a disease in which bones become weak and brittle. According to the agency, routine screening should begin at 60 for women at increased risk. Screening may facilitate treatment that helps prevent fractures.

Eye Exam

A routine eye exam is important to identify early signs of eye disease that are more

likely as people age. People with diabetes are particularly prone to retinopathy, which leads to vision loss, and it's recommended they have annual retinal screening exams.

Vaccinations

While the COVID-19 vaccine is certainly a top priority, especially for older adults, there are other important vaccines, including flu, pneumonia and shingles. Patients should ask their doctors about current recommendations as autumn approaches and risk potentially increases.

"Even in the best of times, health screenings and vaccinations are often a missed opportunity, and the pandemic has only made matters worse," says Dr. Conflitti. "But with these services, individuals can take control of their health in partnership with their doctors. As the old adage goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

To learn more, visit cigna.com/medicare.

- StatePoint



Now Is The Time To Schedule That Check-Up Or Screening

If you haven't visited your physician since the start of the pandemic, medical experts say that the time is now to book check-ups and screenings for the entire family.

"The pandemic has had wide-scale negative health consequences beyond COVID-19. Many Americans have delayed important routine health services critical to keeping them healthy, including vital pediatric immunizations and preventive cancer screenings. Prevention is

the best cure, so it's important to get your health back on track today," says Gerald E. Harmon, M.D., American Medical Association (AMA) president.

With school beginning and the cool weather months ahead, the AMA urges Americans to call their physician's office to learn if they are due for preventive care or screenings.

- StatePoint



Public Health Expert Finds Herself Facing Real Life Crisis

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

racial and ethnic individuals living with epilepsy may experience poorer health outcomes. A survey by the National Health Interview Survey (2017) and National Survey for Children's Health (2018-2019), concludes that more than 578,000 Black Americans have been diagnosed as having epilepsy or a seizure disorder. The Epilepsy Foundation estimates that over 25,000 Black Americans are diagnosed with seizure disorders or epilepsy each year. As published in the *Epilepsia Journal*, stroke is the cause for around 11 percent of adult epilepsy cases, and nearly 45 percent of new epilepsy cases are in those 60 and older. Stroke is one of the leading causes of epilepsy in adults.

To remember the warning signs of a stroke, remember F.A.S.T. That stands for Face drooping. Arm weakness. Speech difficulty. Time to call 911.

Would you know what to do

if your loved one had a post-stroke seizure? Remember: Stay.Safe. Side. STAY with the person and start timing the seizure. Keep the person SAFE. Turn the person onto their SIDE if they are not awake and aware.

For African Americans, there are often specific ways to prevent stroke and heart disease. For example, Mr. Cozart made lifestyle changes that have improved his heart and life astronomically.

"My father no longer drinks alcohol, he reduced his consumption of pork and high sodium foods, and his retirement helped him to not work as hard or be as stressed," Thometta says. "However, ultimately, my dad needed an ablation procedure to address his Afib heart condition, which he finally received on March 30, 2021."

- TriceEdneyWire.com



- Jasmine
breast cancer survivor

I beat cancer

with BROWARD HEALTH

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