

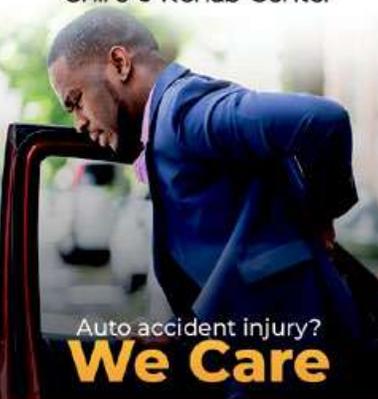
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From Premier To US Federal
Prison Inmate ... Page 4



L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE

Celebrating Haitian Americans
... Page 14 (Credit: North Miami
Middle School/Twitter image)

BACK ON TRACK

**Immigration Forced Back On
The Front Burner**

...Page 3

Immigration activists
demonstrate in front of
the U.S. Supreme Court in
Washington as the Supreme
Court heard oral arguments
in the Title-42 case.



Photo Credit: Bill Clark/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images

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Regional Caribbean News Round Up

Here are some of the top Caribbean news making headlines this month.

REGIONAL

A senior official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is urging Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries to work in close collaboration with Europe and the United States to address concerns being raised by these countries as they relate to the Citizenship by Investment Programme, (CBI).

The IMF Director for Western Hemisphere Department, Ilan Goldfajn, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that while the CBI programmes have been an important source of revenue in some Caribbean countries, providing critical funding for public investment such as building resilience to natural disasters, the United States has moved to decline visas to holders of passports obtained by the CBI and the European Union has passed a law giving countries three years to phase out the programme or face visa requirements for all its passport holders.

Under the CBI, foreign investors are afforded citizenship of a country in return for making a significant investment in the socio-economic development of the particular country. Several Caribbean countries, like Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Kitts-Nevis have instituted CBI programmes.

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Disgruntled members of the ruling coalition Team Unity government on April 26th confirmed that they had filed a motion of no confidence in Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris, even as they left the “door ajar” for some form of reconciliation to end the rift that has split the six-year-old government.

Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the People’s Action Movement (PAM), Shawn Richards, said in a broadcast that the motion had been filed and they were also leaving the “door ajar, but only for a short while.”

Seven legislators in the

government recently wrote to Governor General, Sir Samuel Weymouth Tapley Seaton, indicating that the prime minister does not command the support of the majority of elected members in the National Assembly.

But the Head of State has responded indicating that he is awaiting “formal advice” on the situation and would “revert to you at the earliest.” Harris has himself called on the population to be aware of “certain misgivings in the public domain with respect to the issues raised by the Team Unity partners.

The coalition government comprises Harris’s People’s Labour Party (PLP) PAM and the CCM. The PLP controls two of the nine seats in the coalition government with the two other seats in the National Assembly belonging to the opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) which has already called for fresh general elections to end the crisis in the government.

Richards said he expects that in keeping with the rules of Parliament, the motion will be placed on the Order Paper “for an urgent sitting and that a sitting of Parliament to hear the motion will be scheduled at the earliest.”

JAMAICA

The main opposition People’s National Party (PNP) has criticized a statement by Prime Minister Andrew Holness hinting that his administration is examining the possibility of importing skilled workers to the island for upcoming developments.

“We have placed HEART on alert... that we are going to have to find these people, put them in a streamline mechanism to get them trained and provide them very quickly. If we don’t do that, then there can be no complaint if we have to import labor into the country. And we are seeing an increase in request for labor, particularly skilled labor, in the country,” Holness said at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new hotel in Trelawny recently.

But in a statement, the PNP said that Holness announcement



People took to the streets outside the official residence of Governor John Rankin in the British Virgin Islands as they protested the recommendations of a report of a Commission of Inquiry, (COI), that examined allegations of corruption and abuse of office by elected and statutory officials. (CMC Image)

comes at a time when the government has announced several training programs, which sought to train and certify over 20,000 youth in various skills.

GUYANA

Autopsies conducted on the bodies of two men found in a vehicle in a hotel car park in Guyana have returned as “inconclusive” and authorities there have signaled that further tests overseas would be needed to determine the cause of death of the two friends.

The autopsies were conducted on the bodies of 25-year-old Paishnarine ‘Ritchie’ Hansraj and 34-year-old Justin Teixeira, a flight attendant with American Airlines, by government pathologist Dr. Nehaul Singh, two days after they were discovered dead inside Teixeira’s car at the Marriott Hotel in the capital, Georgetown.

Teixeira’s body was found in the driver’s seat while that of Hansraj was found on the floor of the passenger side.

In a statement, the police said that stomach contents have been removed from both bodies and will be sent overseas for testing and that the bodies have since been handed over to the relatives for burial. As a result of the inconclusive findings, family members have been asked to bury and not cremate the bodies, in case there might be the need for further examination of the bodies as the investigations continue.

BVI

People took to the streets outside the official residence of Governor John Rankin in the British Virgin Islands as they protested the recommendations of a report of a Commission of Inquiry, (COI), that that examined allegations of corruption and abuse of office by elected and statutory officials.

The one-man COI has outlined several recommendations including that British Virgin Islands government cease to exist in its current format for at least two years.

The protest coincided with planned meetings involving UK Overseas Territories Minister, Amanda Milling, with local stakeholders on the COI report. Rankin said that the Commissioner had recommended “a return to Ministerial Government and an elected House of Assembly as soon as practicable, with the Governor taking regular advice from the Advisory Council and others on the earliest practicable date on which such government can resume.

The governing Virgin Islands Party, (VIP), is now in the process of appointing a new Premier and the members have so far thrown their support behind Deputy Premier, Dr Natalio Wheatley who made the announcement late Saturday.

This development comes as Premier Andrew Fahie remains detained in the United States on drug and money laundering charges.

BELIZE

Prime Minister John Briceno has hinted at the possibility of a “people’s referendum” being held prior to the passage of legislation legalizing the use of small uses of marijuana even as he maintained that those behind the referendum had ample time to make known their views on the matter.

The people’s referendum is being spearheaded by the churches here and the National Trade Union Congress of Belize, (NTUCB), has called on the government to stage countrywide consultations on the matter. The unions are also calling on the Briceno government to conduct a referendum saying “in a democracy, the people have a voice, so let the people’s voices be heard.

Under the Referendum Act, chapter 10 of the Laws of Belize, a referendum may be triggered when a petition receives the signatures of 10 per cent of the voting population, or 18, 669 votes in that case as it stands now.

This comes as law enforcement authorities there have sought the assistance of Paris-based the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) in the search for former minister of works, Rene Montero accused of “major irregularities and wrong doings” during his tenure as a government minister.

Montero is wanted in Belize on a charge of ‘willful oppression,’ contrary to sections 284 and 309 of the Criminal Code during the period 2016-2020. He is accused of causing and allowing certain property of the Ministry of Works to be used at his property and those of family members and close associates, abusing the power of his office, a charge he has publicly denied.

The former minister left the country for medical treatment overseas and is yet to return and is now considered a fugitive, subject to arrest and extradition to his homeland.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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Immigration Returns To The Front Burner

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

War or not, the Joe Biden administration has been forced to return immigration to the front burner after a federal judge essentially forced the issue.

U.S. District Judge Robert Summerhays, an appointee of former President Donald Trump in Louisiana, on April 25th granted a motion to bar the Biden administration from immediately winding down Title 42, the Trump-era emergency pandemic-related border restriction that has allowed U.S. immigration officials to quickly expel migrants and force them to wait in Mexico to await U.S. hearings on their asylum claims.

Summerhays' decision in the suit brought by 21 Republican-led states, forced the case into the lap of justices of the Supreme Court on April 26th. The justices heard oral arguments as the Biden administration has to appeal the lower court's ruling reinstating Trump's "remain in Mexico"

policy and seemed bent towards allowing President Biden to shut down the program, designed to restrict immigration at the southern border.

The court's conservative majority appeared to be considering the option of letting the program end even though several of the justices appeared skeptical of claims by two states that the Biden administration acted improperly in briefly shutting down the "Remain in Mexico" policy, formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols.

The number of migrants caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has reached record highs recently as Ukrainians fleeing war add to the tally of those seeking asylum via the Southern border.

But the Biden administration is trying to appease its base and fellow Democrats that it will not continue the Trump policies that has marked its year-plus governance.

Under a new plan



Migrants await transport as Sonia, an asylum seeker from Honduras, arrives at the border wall with her three children in Penitas, Texas to try to apply for asylum. (Reuters Image)

unveiled by the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, the administration has vowed to increase resources, including personnel, transportation, medical support and facilities to support border operations. That includes an increase of over 600 law enforcement personnel and agents from other government agencies to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

DHS' plan will also focus

on "bolstering" the capacity of non-governmental organizations to receive migrants after they have been processed by CBP while they are waiting the results of their immigration removal proceedings.

But pressure is also mounting on the administration for promised immigration reform, and not just an end to Title-42.

New York Caribbean

American Representatives Adriano Espaillat, (NY-13) and Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09) led 40 plus other congressmembers in writing to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to provide a public comment to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on the Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility.

The members are advocating for the inclusion of further provisions to ensure immigrant's continued access to public benefits - through the clarification of exemptions and definitions to eliminate any confusion that may deter non-citizens from applying for benefits.

It's left to be seen whether the Supreme Court justices will rule to remove Title-42 and how far the Biden administration will go to win back its base and fulfill its campaign promises on immigration.



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NEWS



10 Things To Know About The Case Against The British Virgin Islands Premier Now In A Florida Jail

From Premier of the British Virgin Islands to an inmate in a US federal prison. The life of Andrew Alturo Fahie has taken a rapid nosedive since his arrest on Thursday in Miami on conspiracy

to import cocaine and launder money. Fahie was denied bail during a Zoom court appearance Friday court in South Florida as Judge Jonathan Goodman scheduled

a pre-trial detention hearing for Wednesday, May 3rd, and a preliminary hearing for May 13th. Here are 10 things to know about the cases against Fahie, also referred to as “coach” or “head coach.”



Andrew Fahie, from premier to US federal inmate as seen during his initial court appearance on April 29, 2022.

money.” Fahie also told the CS the British were trying to get him out of office for years. Towards the end of the meeting, Fahie asked Maynard to leave the room and told the CS he also needed \$83,000 to pay a debt he owed in Senegal. The CS agreed to help and arranged a meeting in Miami for April 27th with Maynard and Fahie.

9: The CS agreed to leave \$700,000 in cash in a private jet at the Opa Locka airport in Miami that would be retrieved by Maynard and another person on April 28th and flown back to the BVI. Fahie was set to fly to St. Maarten to join the CS on May 2nd to meet the man from Senegal and pay back the debt on his behalf.

On 27 April in Miami the informant and an undercover DEA officer met Maynard to discuss the deal that had been struck with the BVI premier.

The source explained that the drugs would start coming from Colombia to St Thomas on the US Virgin Islands on 30 April and that they would be a point of contact in Tortola.

Maynard said the boats carrying the drugs wouldn't even need to enter the port as she would be able to see them come in from her office.

According to the affidavit, the next day the informant and undercover agent arrived at Fahie's house in South Florida to pick him up and take him to Opa Locka Airport where he was travelling to Philadelphia on a private plane.

The informant said he wanted to show Fahie something before he left.

Boarding a different plane, he revealed the arranged \$700,000 in designer shopping bags, and said it would be later put in suitcases but he wanted the premier to check it first.

Fahie agreed and they all got off the plane where law enforcement officials were waiting to arrest him.

He responded by asking: “Why am I being arrested, I don't have any money or drugs?”

Later that morning the source and the undercover agent picked up Ms Maynard from her hotel in Miami and drove her to the same airport.

She too was brought aboard the private jet and shown the money, before being given \$200,000 for her part.

As they left the plane, she was arrested by law enforcement.

10: The Friday, April 29th, court hearing coincided ironically with the release on Friday of a report commissioned by Queen Elizabeth's representative in the British Caribbean territory, which concluded that its constitution and elected government should be suspended due to concerns about dishonest governance.

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1: Fahie is charged with conspiracy to import five or more grams of cocaine and conspiracy to launder money.

2: According to an affidavit from a US DEA special agent, the case against Fahie dates back to October 2021, when a DEA Confidential Source, (CS), met with Lebanese Hezbollah operatives in Tortola, in the BVI. At this meeting, the CS requested the help of the Hezbollah operatives to use Tortola as a temporary storage for cocaine transported from Colombia and bound for the US. The Lebanese agreed to assist by introducing the CS to senior government officials and to approaching Premier Fahie through his head of security. The group also introduced the CS to Oleanvine Maynard, the managing director of the BVI Ports, who was also charged on Friday in South Florida

3: In March 2022, the CS met with Maynard's son, Kadeem, who told him his mother was waiting on the meeting and they had already begun putting things in place based on the conversations with the Lebanese. The CS also met with Maynard and her son in St. Thomas, USVI and discussed a meeting with Fahie. In describing Fahie, Maynard reportedly said: “I know the man, if he sees an opportunity, he will take it,” according to the affidavit. They also discussed the need to involve Fahie and another government official who was not named. To this Maynard reportedly said: “she knows the premier, he's down with her so she can go to him at anytime and he would say ok.” She also reportedly added: “you see with my premier, he's a little crook sometimes, he's not always straight.”

4: On March 22, 2022, Maynard's son Kadeem, texted the CS he had met with Fahie and the “head coach wants to play with the team this season.” In a call with the CS, Maynard and Kadeem, the two also reportedly said Fahie was interested in working with the CS but would need \$500,000 to handle the ports and airports. Maynard also reportedly said that Fahie would need some money to get the person listed as “Government Official 1” on their side. She also revealed that Fahie had reportedly given her code words to use when she wanted to meet with him on the scheme and a meeting was set for April 7th.

5: However, Fahie appeared skittish about the CS and requested a call on April 1st. On the call, Fahie reportedly said he wanted to make sure the CS was not law enforcement as “it took me 20 years to get here and I don't want to leave in 20 minutes.” However, the April 7th meeting was confirmed. On April 7th, the CS met with Maynard and

Kadeem in Tortola who drove him to a location to where Fahie was in another vehicle, sitting in the front passenger seat. They were then driven to a meeting location an hour away during which time, Fahie reportedly complained that the British government did not pay him enough.

6: During the meeting, the CS told Fahie that he worked with the Sinola cartel in Mexico and they were requested free passage through the use of the Tortola ports for free passage of 3,000 kilograms of cocaine at a time. The cocaine would come from Colombia to the BVI then to Puerto Rico and on to Miami and New York. It would be packaged as construction material, in five-kilogram buckets of waterproofing paint. The material would not test positive for cocaine, but the cocaine would later be extracted over the course of four days in either Puerto Rico or Miami. The CS explained that the per kilogram cost of the cocaine in Miami was USD 26-28,000 while in New York it is \$32-38,000.

The CS proposed offering Fahie 12 percent of the 3,000 kilos allowed to pass through or US\$78 million. Fahie reportedly took out a calculator and ran the numbers calculating that he would earn USD 7.8 million and agreed to let the CS use the ports to ship his cocaine. He also reportedly said Maynard had the licenses of the companies the CS would need. Fahie reportedly then asked for USD 500,000 in upfront payment to which the CS responded he would provide additional money at a meeting in Miami.

7: The CS also reportedly proposed funding Fahie's re-election campaign and asked that he be allowed to choose Fahie's successor so the drug operation could continue. He also asked to do a 3,000 kilo test run in Miami, which would be followed by four months of 3,000 kilos of cocaine coming through the islands two to three times per month. They would then break before resuming. Fahie reportedly agreed to that plan. The CS then gave Fahie USD 20,000 as a “good faith gift.”

8: The CS then proposed they would organize “seizures” of bad drugs and money in the BVI to avoid suspicion. Fahie reportedly laughed and said the CS had thought of everything. Fahie then asked if the CS was undercover to which the CS responded in a way the convinced Fahie he was not, stating in part, “well first of all you are not touching anything.” To which Fahie reportedly replied: “I will touch one thing, the

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Second Royal Caribbean Tour Wraps Up Amid Backlash

The second Royal visit to the Caribbean wrapped up in St. Lucia on April 28th, with Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Sophie, Countess of Wessex touring the island and meeting with several officials with a reception at the prime's minister's residence.

The couple faced some backlash in the islands but were largely warmly welcomed.

In Antigua, the Earl and Countess met with Gaston Browne as well as Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda at Government House in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda; played steel drums in the garden at Government House and met with former West Indies cricketers Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Curtly Ambrose and Sir Richie Richardson at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The couple also talked to members of the sailing academy at the National Sailing Academy in St John's, which offers The Sail-Ability program to people and particularly children with disabilities, the opportunity to get involved



The Countess of Wessex played the steel drums with secondary school pupils as she and Edward received a friendly welcome to the island of Antigua and Barbuda. (PA News agency image)

with activities on the water.

Browne said during a meeting with the royal couple that Antigua and Barbuda should "one day become a republic." However, Browne acknowledged such a move is "not on the cards" currently but he called for "reparatory

justice" to compensate for slavery.

Browne told the couple: "We continue to have the Queen as our head of state, even though I should say we aspire at some point to become a republic."

The Royals were

previously told by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission to avoid "phony sanctimony" over slavery and a visit to Grenada was cancelled.

In St. Lucia, one of St Lucia's biggest radio hosts slammed the visit. Sam Flood, who hosts 'Tells It Like It Is,' on Saint Lucian Radio, told his listeners: "Who paid for the drinks and food that was being consumed at the Governor's house? Did the Royal family sponsor it or did our government?"

Flood went on to question the purpose of the visit and ask how the people of St Lucia were "benefitting from this trip."

The Earl and Countess of Wessex were touring the region for one week, with visits to Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia, and St. Vincent and the

Grenadines. The tour formed part of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A planned tour to Grenada was dropped amid calls for reparation from a local group there.

They were largely welcomed warmly in St. Vincent and St. Lucia but in St. Vincent, about 15 protesters displayed banners reading "end to colonialism" and "£CompensationNow" as the couple travelled to Government House.

The tour by the Earl and Countess of Wessex came on the heels of the visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas. Protests followed them as well in each country as the demand for reparations grows.



ibex Jamaica Team Raises \$1 Million To Help Co-Worker



The \$1 million JMD went towards new prosthetic legs for an ibex team member. Additionally, ibex recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of ibex Cares.

ibex, a leading global provider of business process outsourcing and customer engagement technology solutions, says its team in Jamaica raised JMD 1 million to help pay for new prosthetic legs for teammate Charmonique Willis. Willis lost her legs when she was two years old and needs new prosthetics.

"I would like to thank ibex and all my co-workers for this wonderful gift," said Willis. "This company treats you like family. I love and appreciate ibex for all they have done."

In addition to raising funds to help Willis, ibex is committed to the fight against breast cancer and plans to make a donation to the Jamaica Cancer Society later this year. The company also supports local children's homes across the island and has donated educational tablets to various schools.

"We are all so proud of our team here in Jamaica for their overwhelming compassion and generosity for our dear friend

and colleague, Charmonique," said Jaime Vergara, SVP and Country Manager, ibex. "ibex cares about our people and has a long history of giving to help support the communities where they live and work."

ibex is the leading BPO in Jamaica with six facilities, including Ocho Rios, Portmore and Kingston, and is growing across multiple vertical markets, such as travel and hospitality, insurance, finance, retail, and others. This growth is helping to further reinforce Jamaica's position as a global shared services hub that is digitally transforming our clients' customer experience.

ibex recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of ibex Cares, its philanthropic program that supports local communities where the company operates. This year, the program will be responsible for giving more than \$250,000 in donations to local charities and causes.

Jamaica at 60

On August 6, 2022, the island of Jamaica marks the 60th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 60*

to be published in July 2022, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people. Promote your products and services in this 28-page keepsake edition, to be distributed widely throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta, and the Caribbean.

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Top Honors For GraceKennedy



Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles at the 2022 American Foundation of the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) Annual Legacy Awards Gala on April 21 in NYC. Wehby is holding the Congressional Proclamation from the US House of Representatives received by GK in recognition of its 100th anniversary. (Contributed Image)

Caribbean conglomerate, GraceKennedy (GK), recently received two top honors in New York at the 25th Annual Legacy Awards Gala of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI).

The GK Group was honored with AFUWI the Corporate Award for Global Business Leadership as well as a Congressional Proclamation from the US House of Representatives in recognition of its 100th anniversary on April 21, 2022.

The Proclamation, which was bestowed by US Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke read: “One hundred years of growth has made GraceKennedy

(GK) one of the largest and most dynamic corporate entities in Jamaica and the Caribbean [...] On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I salute GraceKennedy for the positive contributions that make our nation great and bestow upon them the highest honor as a member of the 118th session of Congress.”

GK Group CEO Don Wehby was also one of eight awardees honoured at the event. Wehby received the AFUWI Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Global Business Leadership at the glitzy affair held at the 583 Park Avenue banquet hall in Manhattan.

Wehby was accompanied to the Gala by GK Chairman and former Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of UWI, Professor Gordon Shirley, other GK Directors, and members of the GK Executive Committee and Senior Management team.

AFUWI Awards are conferred at the annual gala on notable individuals and companies which represent high levels of achievement within their respective fields of industry, enterprise and service in their communities. The gala also raises funds for UWI projects, scholarships, and academic programs.

This year’s other AFUWI awardees were Gaston A. Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda; Dr. Timothy J. Harris, Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis; Wayne Berson, CPA, Chief Executive Officer, BDO USA; Dawnn Lewis, Grammy award-winning songwriter, producer and actress; Ralph S. Thomas, Jamaica’s Former Ambassador to the US; and Graham Robinson, SVP & President, STANLEY Industrial.

Recent AFUWI scholarship recipients, Vernique Miller, Moonmattie Devi Seitaram, and Hoshane Langley also addressed the audience at the gala, describing how the financial support they received from AFUWI had positively changed the trajectory of their lives.



Caribbean American US Veep Renews Strong Commitment To The Caribbean

The Joe Biden administration on April 29th renewed its commitment to the Caribbean, saying that its partnership is “key” to “shared prosperity and security.”

In a virtual meeting with 15 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders and the President of the Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, US Vice President Kamala Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican-born retired economist, said that “as a neighbor in the Western Hemisphere, the United States shares a common bond with the nations of the Caribbean.”

She said the COVID-19 pandemic has upended many aspects of the lives people worldwide, stating that economic recovery has been difficult and uneven for many in the region.”

Harris said there is also an existential threat that the United States and the Caribbean face in the climate crisis, declaring that “we are acutely aware that the world’s emissions have an outsize impact on the Caribbean.”

The US vice president focused on three areas that, she said, are of priority for regional leaders: economic recovery, security, and climate and energy. On economic recovery, she noted that the United States is the Caribbean’s biggest economic partner.

On security, Harris said the agenda included a discussion of additional funding and other support the United States can offer to reduce violence in the region. She said climate change is an “urgent issue for our entire



The U.S’ Caribbean American Vice President, Kamala Harris.

planet.” and, “in particular, we will discuss ways to strengthen your climate resilience and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.”

The leaders who met virtually with Harris were Presidents Dr. Irfaan Ali of Guyana; Chan Santokhi of Suriname and Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic as well as Prime Ministers: Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda; Phillip Davis of The Bahamas; Mia Mottley of Barbados; Prime Minister Juan Briceño of Belize; Roosevelt Skerrit of Dominica; Dr. Keith Mitchell of Grenada; Ariel Henry of Haiti; Andrew Holness of Jamaica; Phillip Pierre of Saint Lucia; Dr. Timothy Harris of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Dr. Ralph Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dr. Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago. Secretary General of CARICOM Dr. Carla Barnett also participated in the meeting.

- Rewritten from CMC



Caribbean LGBTQ+ Activists And Advocates Recognized In Two-Month Exhibit

In a groundbreaking move, the United States’ first and only Caribbean heritage museum, Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, will host an exhibition exploring advancements made by members of the LGBTQ+ community.

On Tuesday, May 10th, a special opening event will launch the first in the museum’s lineup of social justice issues programming. “Queer Caribbeans: Resilience, Resistance and Reimagining,” will present a multimedia, historical retrospective showcase of the racial and cultural achievements of Caribbean LGBTQ+ rights activists.

The “Queer Caribbeans” exhibition will document the intersection of Caribbeanness and LGBTQ+ rights activism with an extensive repository of photographs, news footage, oral histories and videos featuring well-respected Caribbean LGBTQ+ rights advocates. Visitors will enjoy the works and words of personalities including beloved Trinidadian American activist Colin Robinson, Guyanese-American founder of Caribbean Equality Project Mohamed Q. Amin, Jamaican-American co-founder of Black LGBTQ+ Liberation G. Wright, Tobagonian-American actress Dominique Jackson, and Jamaican-American

writer and spoken word artist Staceyann Chin.

The public is invited to join special guests and enjoy live entertainment at the opening reception on Tuesday, May 10th from 6 to 8 p.m. A virtual panel will explore issues and progress within this community in the Caribbean region on Wednesday, June 15th from 6 to 7:30 p.m., during Pride Month. An in-person panel will discuss advancements made among the Caribbean LGBTQ+ diaspora on Wednesday, June 29th from 6 to 8 p.m.

From May to October 2022, Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, with funding from the Community Foundation of Broward, will present an exhibition and event series highlighting social justice issues affecting Caribbean and Caribbean-American communities.

The first in the six-month series addresses issues affecting LGBTQ+ people. Subsequent themes will include Emancipation and the region’s complex history with the concept of freedom, and colorism and gender roles among Latin-Americans. To learn more about “Queer Caribbeans” and the Island SPACE social justice issues series, visit islandspacefl.org/socialjustice.



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Visions Of Hell In Haiti

Samuel, whose name is being protected to keep him safe, grew up near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, and has seen his childhood home descend into lawlessness and gang violence. Now a staff member with the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), in the country, he faces the daily risk of kidnapping, or worse. Here's his first-person account.

I spent much of my childhood in the south of the capital, in Cité Plus, from the age of 10, until I got married 16 years later. Back then, it was a peaceful neighborhood, but it has been transformed into a lawless, hellish zone.

We didn't grow up wealthy, but we always had enough to eat, and my parents, my father was an electrical engineer and my mother a shopkeeper, made enough to send me and my three siblings to private schools. I went on to study philosophy at the University of Haiti, as well as law and economics.

I later studied as a multimedia journalist, and joined UNDP in 2014, initially as a volunteer and, two years later, as a staff member.

The positive side of working at UNDP is that, on the ground, we get to meet principled, resilient people who believe in a better future with a strong

community spirit, who work hard, in the absence of basic public services.

And, at our offices, I work with extraordinary colleagues, who maintain their professionalism and work effectively, despite the many crises that have an effect on their personal and work lives.

However, we all work under a persistent sense of insecurity, and the fear that people will find out where we work.

Many people believe that all UN staff members are rich, and this gives rise to jealousy and even hatred, amongst those who don't have the same opportunities as us, in a country with a very high rate of unemployment.

With the alarming rise in the number of kidnappings we have seen recently, this sense of insecurity is increasing.

I knew that, as a staff member for an international organization in Port-au-Prince, I would only be able to live in certain neighborhoods, and would have to be careful who I told about my job.

Over the last year, as the security situation has deteriorated, I have also had to be careful which roads I take to get to work. This is the case for me, and other colleagues who live in areas such as Carrefour, Mariani, Merger, Gressier, or Léogâne.



A woman guides a child past a demonstration against increasing violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

My wife and I are obliged to stay with family in Port-au-Prince during the week, even though we have built a family home in Gressier. Our two children are at school there, and we can only hope to see them on the weekend, if we are able to make the journey. Otherwise, we can only communicate by telephone, as if we were living in another country."

Commuting is too dangerous. The authorities have lost control of the Martissant-Fontamara road, and gangsters are pillaging the population, raping women and shooting at passengers on buses or in cars.

Travelling by road means

accepting that you will be driving past human bodies, left on the roadside to be eaten by dogs. I doubt that those killed in Martissant even figure in the official death statistics.

Things really were different before. During my childhood, Cité Plus was like many other neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince. There were many poor families, single mothers, and children whose parents couldn't afford to feed them or send them to school, but there was less crime.

Today in Haiti, ideas such as free choice, free movement, and security are becoming more and more removed from reality. I feel as if I'm in a country that is

dying. Whatever happens, I will fight to survive, no matter what. But to survive, you need to stay alive, and I'm worried that the insecurity is getting closer and closer to me.

Many of my acquaintances have become victims of violence and kidnappings, either directly or indirectly. I fear that my wife and children are targets for criminals.

Given the current situation, many people have left the country, and many more are planning to leave. Even the intellectual elite, those with a decent quality of life, are emigrating.

I want to stay in a Haiti whose institutions work for its citizens, without any discrimination, where inequality is reduced, and all citizens have access to basic services.

I don't think that Haiti is necessarily doomed. We can find our way out of this mess, as long as there is a collective awakening, and a critical mass decides to get us back on track. But this will require a lot of sacrifices, and a willingness to act in the collective interest.

- CMC



Grenadian American Makes History With \$90,000 Graduate School Fellowship

Stanford MD/PhD student has made history by becoming the first Grenadian American to receive a prestigious \$90,000 graduate school fellowship.

On April 13th, the premier graduate school fellowship for immigrants and children of immigrants, The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, announced their new class of Fellows, each of whom will receive \$90,000 in funding towards their graduate education.

The new class includes Quenton Rashawn Bubb, who is the first recipient with Grenadian heritage in the Fellowship's 24-year history to win the Fellowship.

Quenton was born in Brooklyn, New York to Jude and Jessey Bubb, who emigrated from the island of Grenada to seek greater educational and career opportunities for themselves and their future children. With a mother as a nurse, and a father as a musician and electrician, Quenton loved to listen to his heartbeat with his mother's stethoscope and take apart his toys with his father's tools. His home life deeply influenced Quenton's appreciation for interdisciplinary thinking from an early age. He credits his parents for seeding his love of jazz and improvisational music, which inform his creative thinking and scientific exploration.

As a college student



: Quenton Bubb is the first recipient with Grenadian heritage in The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans' 24 year history. (NewsAmericasnow.com image)

at Johns Hopkins, Quenton studied biophysics, with the hope of gaining proficiency in mathematics, computation, chemistry, biology, and physics to address challenging problems in medicine. In the laboratory of Professor Karen Fleming, he learned and applied fundamental biophysical techniques to probe protein thermodynamics. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins, he was able to continue his education in molecular biophysics by pursuing an MPhil in chemistry at the University of Cambridge as a Marshall Scholar, where he studied the complex kinetics and thermodynamics of intrinsically disordered proteins.

After graduating from the University of Cambridge, Quenton worked as a fellow at Vida Ventures, where he learned about a broad range of biotechnologies and current challenges in cutting edge medicine. He subsequently began training toward becoming a physician-scientist in the Stanford University School of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), where he is also pursuing an MD and PhD in stem cell biology & regenerative medicine. Under the co-mentorship of Professor Agnieszka Czechowicz and Professor Crystal Mackall, he is developing a toolbox of novel cell therapies to allow patients with hematological diseases or malignancies to undergo Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) without genotoxic conditioning. Quenton hopes to be a hematologist/oncologist and lead an interdisciplinary lab dedicated to developing curative cell and gene therapies as a principal investigator. He intends to support and develop trainees from underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds to make significant impacts in science and medicine.

In addition to Quenton, the Fellowship selected Christeebella Akpala, Esther Elonga, Tania Fabo, and Osaremen Fortune.

In addition to receiving up

to \$90,000 in funding, the new Fellows joins the prestigious community of past Paul & Daisy Soros Fellows. The active alumni network includes US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy; Olympians Amy Chow and Patricia Miranda; US Ambassador to Spain Julissa Reynoso Pantaleón; business leader Sangu Delle; former California Surgeon General Nadine Burke-Harris; Stanford AI leader Fei-Fei Li; computational biologist Pardis Sabeti; composer Paola Prestini; Maine CDC Director Nirav Shah; Aspiration CEO Andrei Cherny; award-winning writer Kao Kalia Yang, and more than 715 Fellows.

Founded by Hungarian immigrants, Daisy M. Soros and her late husband Paul Soros (1926-2013), The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans program honors the contributions of continuing generations of immigrants in the United States.

"The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship liberated me from the traditional path I was expected to follow," said 2009 Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow Shantanu Gaur, the cofounder and CEO at Allurion Technologies. "Unburdened from debt and energized by peers who were taking the road less traveled, I have been able to thrive."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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Women Less Men



The female form can be absolutely beautiful, and if you can ignore the other trappings that come with it, most men would be happy with what they got.

But all that glitters is not gold, and even the most beautiful roses have thorns. It's like eating a lobster or crab, you have to fight your way through the tough sharp shell, but when you get to the meat of it, it's delicious.



TONY ROBINSON

As a result, there are men who would rather not put out the effort, but prefer to do without women. Some by choice, others by design or misfortune, while some just can't seem to get any, no matter how hard they try. They are Womenless Men.

It's most men's dream to have a woman by his side, in his life. This is bolstered by the old sayings, 'Man should not live alone,' 'Behind every successful man is a woman,' and others.

The truth is, men want women for different reasons, some for companionship, friendship, conversation, beauty, and of course, for romance.

In spite of all this though, there are men who have no women. For some it's a lifestyle thrust upon them, like prisoners, priests, monks and others of that ilk who are either incarcerated and have no choice in the matter, or have taken obligatory vows of celibacy and are forced to exist without women.

Men outside of those parameters though, who choose of their own volition not to have women, are different. Maybe they were burnt in the past, had their heart broken, jilted in love, and now swear off women: "I would never trust another woman as long as I live."

Then there are men who are simply afraid of women, and have

been so from childhood. Not once in their life could they muster up the courage to approach a woman, so they simply resigned themselves to a womanless life.

In fact there is a term for it - Gynophobia, an intense and irrational fear of women. This should not be confused with misogyny, which is the hatred of, contempt, or prejudice against women. Many of these men are accomplished and very successful in their professions but never had a woman.. Some may live alone or still live with their mothers. 'How come we never see him with a woman yet?', "He suffers from gynophobia," "Vaccine can't help him?"

Some psychologists suggest that many of these men are like that because of the influence of their mothers. Maybe she was domineering, too smothering, spoiled them too much, or was physically abusive. For many of those reasons, the young man is so affected that he steers clear of any other women who may venture into his life. "Look on the tall, strapping handsome man, never had a woman," "Is his mother's fault."

Some men may actually choose this lifestyle because they cannot deal with the problems that come with women. "I used to play the field, but I got tired of those needy women and their games, so I gave it up." Or "After my woman and I broke up, I feel so liberated."

But what about romance? Some guys may visit massage parlours and get a happy ending to satisfy their needs, but there are other modern ways.

There are futuristic life-like robots and androids that are so well made that you can't tell the difference. Artificial Intelligence is real, as those dolls are the biggest rage among the affluent.

They speak, they smile, they respond to touch and verbal commands, and yes, they satisfy the owners. Maybe they are the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

White Privilege At The U.S. Southern Border?

There's a new immigration crisis at the US' Southern border and it's no longer black but white.

There's another blatant difference too that few are addressing, and that is the double standard of how the U.S. is dealing with the surge of White Ukrainians to the Mexican border versus the treatment meted out to black and brown immigrants.

Let me be clear – I am saddened and empathetic that thousands have been forced to flee their homes because of a mad man and his decision to invade their country for no real reason. They are fleeing war – I know!

But many African immigrants seeking asylum at the border are also fleeing civil war in their countries. Yet they are denied the same access being rolled out to Ukrainians at the border.

Thousands of Haitians are fleeing because of gang war in their country but are turned back



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

by Mexican police and even horse-riding US agents with lassos.

Thousands of brown immigrants from Central America are fleeing for their lives from gangs but are told "stay at home" and "don't come, the border is not open," by US officials, including its immigration czar and veep, Kamala Harris.

Much like black and brown immigrants set up tent cities and camped out in Mexico waiting for an opportunity to apply for asylum, thousands of Ukrainians are arriving in Tijuana and camping out there.

Tent cities have now sprung up while most are now living in shelters, churches and anywhere they can find, just like brown and black immigrants have done in recent years.

Enrique Lucero, director of Tijuana's immigration services, told Reuters that about 2,829 Ukrainians were waiting. Between 100 to 200 Ukrainians arrive in Tijuana alone daily, according to official statistics.

The difference is while black and brown immigrants have been turned back and told the border is closed per Title-42, U.S. border officials have been

allowing hundreds of Ukrainians into the U.S. per day, through the San Ysidro crossing.

How come? They were instructed in early March by the Biden administration to consider exempting people with Ukrainian passports from Title-42 or the pandemic-era restrictions currently blocking other migrants from seeking asylum.

In one week alone, nearly 3,000 Ukrainians were processed by U.S. border officials, CBD news quoted DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas as saying.

The typical right wingers who are always critical of the "border crisis" and black and brown immigrant caravans at the Southern border, are now very quiet.

No Fox News channel running 24-7 coverage of the "caravan" of immigrants heading for the US and camping out at the border. No Donald Trump comments about how the Border crisis is destroying America; how they are "pouring over the border" or are a "cesspool of humanity."

Why? The new immigrants at the border are not black or brown, but White.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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Guyana's Balancing Act With Gas To Power Development And Climate Action

BY LORRAINE SOBERS

Natural gas has been accepted as a cleaner alternative to fuel oil for electricity generation for over eight decades. Guyana is now poised to make the switch from fuel oil to natural gas and add to the 25% of global electricity systems fueled by natural gas. A reliable, affordable supply of electricity is critical to the socio-economic development of Guyana.

The availability of electricity affects the cost of living, access to technology and essentially every aspect of modern life. Most CARICOM countries, like Guyana, currently import fuel oil for electricity generation. These countries are exposed to high and often volatile oil prices, heavy drawdown on limited foreign exchange and manufacturing industries saddled with uncompetitive energy costs.

Additionally, fuel oil is one of the more heavily polluting fossil fuel products generating almost double the volume of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions compared to natural gas. The introduction of Gas to Power will undoubtedly reduce Guyana's fuel import bill while reducing CO₂ emissions.

In a recent webinar, former Caribbean Development Bank economist, Dr Justin Ram, detailed the implications for diversification with this project and outlined some recommendations for the way forward.

The Liza Phase 1 project, 180 km offshore of Guyana, produces significant volumes of associated gas, that is gas produced with the crude oil. This associated gas can be reinjected into the hydrocarbon reservoir to maintain reservoir pressure and/or can be transported to shore by pipeline to be used as fuel and feedstock. Reinjection will typically increase the total volume of oil recovered. Indeed, in some cases, it may be the only option available in the absence of appropriate pipeline infrastructure.

The current plan for Gas to Power includes the construction of a pipeline, a Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) separation and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production plant and a natural gas fired power plant. The pipeline will bring 50 million standard cubic feet of gas per day (mmscf/d) to shore in the first phase with a maximum capacity of 145 mmscf/d. Along with this development significant investment must be made to upgrade the reliability and coverage of the nation's electricity supply.

Guyana desperately needs a decentralized and flexible electricity grid with built in redundancy. The anticipated energy mix includes natural gas, hydropower, solar, wind, fuel oil,



Guyana is now poised to make the switch from fuel oil to natural gas and add to the 25% of global electricity systems fueled by natural gas.

and biomass by 2050. Demand is forecasted to increase from current peak 126 MW to approximately 260 MW by 2025 then to just under 400 MW by 2035. Guyana Power and Light (GPL) has considered the conversion of existing heavy fuel oil power plants to dual-fired plants which will be designed to consume natural gas as the primary fuel and use fuel oil as a back-up. GPL secured debt financing from the Government of Guyana for the construction of the Garden of Eden project which will add 46.5 MW to the grid to improve system reliability, enhance its capacity to adequately respond to peak demand load in the short to medium term and cut CO₂ emissions by 50% compared to fuel oil. There is also an ongoing programme of improvements for electricity Transmission and Distribution.

In less than a decade, Guyana will be producing 1 million barrels

of oil per day from its growing reserves, currently estimated to be 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent. When it comes to Guyana's oil and gas development, there are scenarios ranging for zero to maximum production in the shortest timeframe. Guyana appears to be leaning towards the "more is more" strategy with the anticipation for further oil and gas exploration and development in anticipation of peak oil demand in the future followed by consistent fall in decline in demand for fossil fuels. Meanwhile a "less is more" approach is being demanded by environmental activists calling for zero carbon emissions, zero waste and zero growth economies. But before we dismiss those advocating "less is more" let's take a look at their argument.

You may ask, why would anyone propose zero oil and gas development for Guyana. Oil and gas revenue is set to transform Guyana, allowing the country to provide a better standard of living for citizens, upgrade its infrastructure and reduce the cost of electricity. Of course, Guyana is not being specifically targeted by environmental activists. Every year at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings there are calls for a halt to worldwide use of fossil fuels which have been linked to climate change. In fact, Guyana has been one of the countries calling for immediate and meaningful climate action to ensure the survival of vulnerable developing countries.

Guyana is particularly susceptible to the anticipated effects of climate change, mainly rising sea levels, which threatens to wipe out Georgetown and everything along the coast. Climate models show that the 280-mile seawall that currently protects much of Guyana's coastline will be no match for the anticipated sea level rise. Additionally, increasing frequency and intensity of storms, changing rainfall patterns or drought, any one of these climatic events, can suddenly cripple significant aspects of Guyana's traditional economic activity. The climate is already on this path and Guyana has decided to use

oil revenues to build resilience by bringing its infrastructure into the 21st century.

If gas is not brought to shore it means that Guyana will continue to import heavy and light fuel oil for power generation until the Amaila Hydropower plant comes on stream in 2026 decreasing, but not eliminating, the demand for fuel imports. However, the future is bright. Energy security and access will be further enhanced by the subsequent commissioning of several solar microgrid projects funded by the Inter-American Development Bank to expand energy access to the hinterlands. Natural gas will provide a consistent power supply to complement renewable sources.

Guyana has been a long-time champion of climate action and currently continues to provide a valuable carbon sink for the planet through its forest conservation policy. Sustainable hydrocarbon development for Guyana remains possible with innovative approaches such as setting a low, nationally determined CO₂ emission per capita cap, identifying and allocating CO₂ sinks, not including current standing forest, to counteract emissions from any proposed downstream industry development and, promoting the manufacture of carbon neutral products.

In this way Guyana can position itself as an example for sustainable energy development while building climate-resilient, modern infrastructure.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr Lorraine Sobers is a Fulbright Scholar and currently lectures at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Dr Sobers has a BS in Chemical Engineering and postgraduate degrees, MS and Ph.D., in Petroleum Engineering. She has 18 years' experience in the energy sector and specializes in geologic CO₂ storage. Dr Sobers is also the Project Coordinator for CO₂ Emission Reduction Mobilization (CERM) Project and a Fellow of the Caribbean Policy Consortium.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



White Privilege At The U.S. Southern Border?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Remember Trump's alleged racist comment on wanting more immigrants from places like Norway, and less from immigrants from "s-hole countries?"

Well, it has now become a reality at the Southern border, and many are secretly happy.

The blatant discrimination is obvious. I have nothing but deep empathy for Ukrainians fleeing war, but there cannot be a double standard. How can you waive the rules for some while keeping

them firmly in place to shut out others with more melanin? That is what the states suing to keep Title-42 in place wish to uphold.

This is a clear-cut example of racism and White privilege. As my granny used to say when summing up racism: 'You black, stay back, you white, you alright.'

This sadly holds true in 2022 at the U.S. border.

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com – The Black Immigrant Daily News.



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Late Soca Star Honoured In Las Vegas

The growing Latin, Caribbean/West Indian community in the city of Las Vegas and state of Nevada were joined on Saturday, April 23rd, by local elected leaders and their representatives to honour and pay tribute to the late influential, iconic recording Soca artist from Trinidad and Tobago, Dexter "Blaxx" Stewart at the Taste of Latin America and The Caribbean in the Arts District Downtown.

Stewart, 59, who passed away on March 28, 2022 from complications related to COVID-19, was one of the influencers to promote, celebrate and preserve Caribbean/West Indian in Las Vegas.

Blaxx's unique brand of soca music was widely appreciated by his fans and followers, and he gained a reputation for putting out tunes of a consistently high standard every Carnival season. His songs were melodic, danceable and uplifting.

As the lead singer of the popular soca band Roy Cape All Stars, Blaxx performed countless favourites, including 2013's "Leh Go," which has since become a timeless selection. One of his biggest hits was 2018's unexpectedly inspirational "Hulk," which "mashed up" the fete circuit that season.

With lyrics like "What don't kill you should make you stronger," the song spoke of overcoming obstacles and rising to your full potential. Having paid his dues trying to make it in the soca music arena — he was told he was "too black," "too fat" and "not marketable."

The posthumous recognition was issued by Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman, United States House of Representative Member Susan Lee and the

Women Less Men

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

answer to men without women, as they offer all of the pleasure, but none of the pain.

But the majority of men will have to endure the pain, just to get some pleasure. For the men without women, it's a path that they have chosen.

It was Mark Twain who said, "What would men be without women? Scarce sir, mighty scarce."

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



Late Trinbagonian soca performer Dexter 'Blaxx' Stewart.

State's Governor, Steve Sisolak.

The Taste of Latin America and The Caribbean is a local regional passport to explore the exquisite taste, cuisine, arts, culture from Latin America, The Caribbean/West Indian.

The state of Nevada has one of the growing Latin Caribbean/West Indian population from countries including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Belize, St. Lucia, Guyana, Puerto Rico, Grenada, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico and El Salvador to name a few.

According to the Guinn Center, 4.2 percent of Nevada's Foreign-born population are from the Caribbean.

- *Global Voices.com contributed to this story*



Trinidad Born Rapper Embraces Sobriety

Trinidad-born rapper, Nicki Minaj, says she has now embraced sobriety and feels happier being sober. Minaj, who is now married and a mom, says she is more chill and relaxed.

The "Super Bass" entertainer shared a bit of her emotional journey on Twitter recently and opened up about how she has slowed down on her partying lifestyle significantly and therefore has realized that her mood improves when she is not inebriated.

"I used to be happy when I was high, now I'm happy when I'm sober. No judgment to anyone. Be gentle with yourself," she shared.

Minaj's post racked up thousands of likes as everybody loves a feel-good, inspirational



Nicki Minaj says she is sober and loving it.

moment, especially one from a fierce artiste who in the past was known for being quite serious and super competitive.

A few fans, however, joked that maybe the "Anaconda" artiste was forthcoming because she was high and had the munchies as she had earlier shared a video being quite comfortable in her domestic domain frying up some chicken.

However, Mrs. Petty was quick to shoot down that theory and responded to the comment: "No, I'm sober and loving life. You?"

The rapper has in the past been known to glorify a lifestyle of excesses both in partying like a rock star and jet setting like a diva, which she has been called and is a title that in the past she has embraced. Many of her songs and accompanying videos, including "Bottles Up" with Trey Songz, shows just how good she was at being a party girl.

- *Urban Islandz*



Singer Sanchez Loses Mom, Son In One Month

Reggae crooner Sanchez, whose real name is Kevin Jackson, has been slammed with two deaths in his family in one month.

The 'Never Dis Di Man' singer has lost both his mother and son. Cops have confirmed that the singer's 21-year-old son, Kevin Anthony Jackson, was among three recently shot and killed in August Town.

The killing of the younger Jackson came on April 30th as Sanchez and his family were laying their mother to rest.

Reports are that at about 4:50 a.m. on April 30th, Jamaica police responded to a call of gunshots being fired in the area. On their arrival, three men were



Singer Sanchez has lost his mother and son in one month.

discovered laying along a dirt track in the vicinity of a football field, with what appeared to be gunshot wounds.

They were assisted to the hospital where all three were

pronounced dead. Sanchez's son was among the three. The Major Investigation Division (MID) are probing the circumstances surrounding the shooting deaths of the men.

Sanchez's mother, Bridgette Anestine Ivey, passed away earlier in April at 74. The funeral service took place at the T. Little Funeral Home in Cambridge, Canada and she was buried at Parklawn Cemetery.

"He is taking it very hard," a family friend had told DancehallMag.

- *Rewritten from DancehallMag*





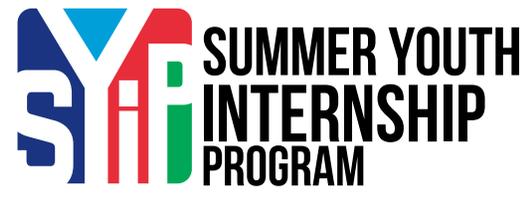
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Florida Health Care Clinics And Pharmacies Accused Of Stealing Millions Of Dollars



Truvada, the drug at the center of the scam.

Pharmaceutical giant Gilead is alleging that it is the victim of a massive healthcare fraud scheme that played out in the state of Florida.

The Bay Area-based company alleges that health care clinics and pharmacies in the Sunshine State took advantage of its free distribution of the HIV prevention drug Truvada, a preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP), to illegally obtain the drug for free and sell it on the black market.

The company accuses the firms of enrolling uninsured people - and even recruiting homeless people - in the scheme

to obtain the drugs. Medication was then illegally distributed, sometimes on the black market, costing the pharma giant millions.

The drug works by preventing the HIV virus from replicating in the body, killing infected cells and stopping the development of AIDS. It is often used by gay and bisexual men, along with others who may have a partner that is at risk of being infected.

Those who qualify are distributed the drug for free as a part of a larger effort by the company to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The company recently won a court order that could order it to be repaid millions of dollars. Gilead is seeking tens of millions in damages from 58 defendants named in a November 2020 lawsuit. It also specifically blames some 'Kingpins,' deemed to be most responsible for the scheme - and having benefited the most from it.

The company alleges that these figures purchased luxury items like cars, real estate and private jets using the money defrauded from it. A motion to freeze all assets of these Kingpins was granted this month, and a Miami court has now demanded a full list of all of their assets.

This is the second major fraud case Gilead has uncovered surrounding its HIV drug in recent years. In 2020, the company discovered over 80,000 bottles of one of its HIV drugs was being counterfeited and sold to pharmacies around the country. The revelation led to a federal investigation, with law enforcement officials eventually cracking down on the counterfeiters and seizing thousands of pill bottles.

- *Rewritten from the Daily Mail*



Caribbean Trade Ministers Slammed For Blocking Food Labelling Attempts

The director of the Pan American Health Organization, (PAHO), Dr Carissa Etienne, said Caribbean Community (CARICOM) trade ministers have been blocking attempts to encourage food labelling in the region, renewing a call for taxes on sugar and sweetened beverages.

Addressing the PAHO sub regional managers meeting recently, the Dominican-born senior PAHO official urged Trade Minister, Ian Douglas, to use his influence to help create the enabling environment "so people can live healthy lives.

"I know that we have taxes on sweetened beverages, we need to increase those," Etienne told the conference. "We need to increase those, so the healthier choice becomes the easier choice. So, they will not spend money to buy some of those, but they will go to our juices and to put the taxation on sugar as well."

She said, however, one of the "biggest requests" PAHO needed to make of the Dominica Trade Minister "is how does CARICOM and the ministers of trade, how do they help us to ensure food labelling in the Caribbean.

"When somebody goes

to a supermarket to pick up something, they need to know, wow, this is high in fats, this is high in sugar, this is high in salt, so it becomes easier for them to make the choice. We have been having a battle with food labelling and with CARICOM and ministers of trade in this region where they have been blocking us. They have been blocking us although we have the support of CARPHA (Caribbean Public Health Agency), the healthy coalition and civil society in this region," she revealed. "They have been blocking us and I think it is short sightedness, because unless we go to the food labelling, people will continue to buy food that is not just healthy but is causing illness."

She said the economic cost of dealing with those illnesses is much higher "than the few taxes that they will pick up from those products" and made a personal plea to Douglas, urging him "to bring leadership to bear on the frontal package food labelling issue in the Caribbean."

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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Baptist Health

Countdown Begins To 19th Annual Florida Jerk Fest

By Ashley Moncrieffe

With the recent rebrand of Palm Beach Jerk Fest and Orlando becoming one as The Florida Jerk Fest, there's plenty of fun to cross over no matter which city you live in in the post-COVID-19 era. If you're planning to attend the live festival with your kids or parents, there's something for the whole family to look forward to.

What better way to enjoy Memorial Day and kick off summer than at The Florida Jerk Fest on Monday, May 30th, at John Prince Park, 2700 6th Ave S, Lake Worth Beach, FL 3346, from 3-11 p.m. Though Jerk chicken will be the main attraction, here are five things you must experience at this year's festival:

1. Food

Of course, the 'nyammings' of jerk everything will commence. If you prefer a variety of jerk meat like lobster



Get ready for the taste of jerk at the Florida Jerk Festival.

or chicken, or to cool down your tongue with a little spice of Jerk ice cream, there will be over a dozen food vendors to choose from to satisfy your appetite. Brace yourselves, though: the lines can be a little long. So don't just come with your belly, but also with some patience, as many restaurants are recouping from

the pandemic.

2. Performances

Whether you choose to get lawless with Baby Cham, sing hits with Fab 5, dance along with Ding-Dong, or fete with Destra, the Queen of Bacchanal, there will be musical options to suit your Caribbean music listening

ear. So, get your playlist ready early so when Memorial Day comes, you can fully immerse yourself in the live music experience, and you too will be able to sing and dance along with your favorite performers.

3. Kidzone

For many, there is no work and, for the students, no school. So, if you're coming to the festival with your kids, be sure to drop them off at the kid's zone. While you're enjoying the concert, your kids can enjoy themselves in their own hub. This is a must-stop for any child attending with lots of interactive games, like bounce houses and Carnival mask making. While safety is always a concern, this area will be fully supervised so you can peacefully enjoy the show.

4. Vendors

This marketplace will be full of artisan and craft stalls.

This is another excellent way to support local small businesses and communities after the onset of the pandemic. There will be unique finds and pieces that you simply won't find in your local mall or shopping plaza. If you're looking for your country's flag to wave or a new clothing item to wear, avoid the shipping fees and directly walk away with exclusive threads and accessories.

5. Jerk Experience

The Jerk experience is a unique way to enjoy the festival. You get an educational and delicious opportunity of all things Jerk in this area. This add-on to the festival experience will include a Jerk cook-off from different chefs, immersive food tastings, and a new mixology zone.

Tickets can be purchased at floridajerkfestival.com.



Haitian Accra



Haitian Accra

It's Haitian Heritage Month and in honor of Haitian food, we spotlight this week on the delicious Haitian Accra. Here's how to make it according to Caribbean Green Living.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb malanga/tania cut into 2.5cm (1" pieces) (malanga can be bought in any Hispanic supermarket)
- 2 scallions chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoons parsley chopped
- 1 teaspoon thyme leaves only
- 2 tablespoons green peppers chopped
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

- 1 teaspoon salt plus more to taste
- ½ tablespoon scotch bonnet pepper or Habanero. Chopped, seeds and membrane removed
- 1 – 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon olive oil if baking
- 2 cups vegetable oil if frying only

METHOD

Peel all Malangas and cut pieces into smaller 2.5cm (1") cubes.

Add to food processor. Add all ingredients also to food processor with the exception of oils. Blend all ingredients to a

smooth mixture including olive oil if BAKING ONLY.

Put mixture in a bowl, cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for 30 minutes or longer.

Blend all ingredients to a smooth mixture.

Remove and add to a bowl without olive oil if FRYING ONLY.

Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for 30 minutes or longer.

Remove mixture from refrigerator and let stand at room temperature. If frying mix with flour and with 2 dinner spoons shape the accra, and fry golden brown in hot oil. Serve hot.

If baking – When ready, butter 2 – 3 ramekins.

Fill ramekins with Accra mixture, do with butter and bake at 190°C / 375°F / Gas Mark 5 for 30 to 35 minutes.

You may change the temperature of the oven to broil for the top to crisp, but no more than 5 minutes. Serve hot.

Bon Appetite!

- NewsAmericasNow.com



How To Make Jerk Ice-Cream

INGREDIENTS

- For 1 1/2 Pint
- 1 Pint heavy cream
 - 1 tbsp vanilla extract
 - 1 tbsp jerk seasoning, mild
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 6 egg yolks
 - 1 banana (peeled)

INSTRUCTIONS

Place cream, jerk seasoning and vanilla bean in a medium-sized saucepot and bring to a boil.

1 Pint heavy cream, 1 tbsp jerk seasoning, mild, 1 tbsp vanilla extract Place sugar and egg yolks in a mixing bowl.

Remove cream from heat and whisk into the yolk mixture in small 1–2-ounce increments.

When ¾ of the cream is in the yolks, add the yolk mixture back into the saucepot.

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture begins to slightly thicken or reaches 180°F on a thermometer.

Transfer product to a clean bowl add the banana and using



Jerk Ice cream (GraceKennedy.com image)

an immersion blender, puree.

1 banana (peeled) Strain into a clean bowl and cool in an ice-bath or in the refrigerator, stirring occasionally.

When the product is completely cooled, churn for five minutes.

Serve and eat cold!

Bon Appetite!

- FromFloridaJerkFestival.com



Can We Talk?

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

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HAITIAN HERITAGE



www.caribbeantoday.com

Spotlight On Haitian Americans In South Florida ~ Beatrice Louissaint

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

On May 18, 2022, Haitians will again mark Haitian Flag Day - a Haitian holiday to celebrate the creation of the Flag of Haiti in 1803, and revolution in Haiti that gave its people freedom from France and set the precedent for slave uprisings in the US.

Across the US and the world, Haitians are excelling despite the socio-economic challenges in their homeland.

One such person is Beatrice Louissaint.

As President and CEO of the Miami-based Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council, (FSMSDC or 'The Council'), Beatrice Louissaint is a staunch advocate for underserved entrepreneurs.

For twenty-two years, the Haitian migrant has fought for equity for Minority Business Enterprises led by African American, Latino-American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American, and Asian-Indian American owners. Considered a leader in certifying minority owned businesses, The Council has increased visibility for these enterprises that have always had an impact on this state characterized by a large immigrant population.

In fact, a recent study by a national law firm, Edwards Kirby, highlighted that Florida ranks third amongst all the states for the largest black/minority owned small businesses. And, with a large Caribbean immigrant population, many of

these enterprises are owned and/or run by people with Caribbean heritage. A prime example is Haitian-American Dr. Rudolph Moise, an osteopathic doctor, who has several locations across Florida, and has recently opened an aesthetic clinic. But for some, lacking adequate capital, access to training and resources, means they are doomed to fail. That's where Louissaint and her team comes in.

BUILD WEALTH

"We are really focused on helping build wealth in communities of color — Hispanic, Asian, African American, and Native American owned companies. We really believe that wealth, education, and job creation are critical to our success as Caribbean people or black people as a whole," Louissaint explained.

She added: "It is difficult as a startup to get capital. Most banks want to fund a company that can show they have the ability to pay back. We, many times, don't inherit wealth like some folks do. And so we have to rely on our savings, family and friends."

The non-profit boss also pointed out that The Council has seen an increase in some grants as well as banks focused on community development and non-traditional banking that is helping black businesses. However, minority-owned businesses still face major obstacles, noting that "black zip codes lagged behind in Florida." Louissaint added that the goal



Beatrice Louissaint is focused on building wealth one certification at a time.

is to tear down the artificial barriers which eliminates black owned businesses.

With more than 900 certified Minority Business Enterprises generating \$11

billion in sales and 200 corporate partners, The Council helps create success by bringing together companies in need with corporate partners willing to invest and work with promising

entrepreneurs.

Among its many services, The Council offers certification to minority businesses that gives them access to consultations, special events and programs and opportunities to work with corporate and government partners. The SBA Technical Assistance Program trains small businesses to be able to bid on lucrative government contracts. Its COVID Response & Relief Business Program provides free services for businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. So, the advantages to being part of The Council are many.

"They are part of a national database. They have access to our corporate members, government buyers, corporate buyers. They are getting up to date information about loans, events, activities. And they are invited to other activities throughout the country," Louissaint explained.

ADVOCACY

"We meet with public officials, private sector. We follow legislation and policy changes; we alert the companies. We write position papers, advocacy agenda. And so, we're focused on how policy impacts black businesses and minority businesses overall. That's part of the advocacy work that we do."

The non-profit also helps minority owned companies with opportunities to work with and bid on Florida Department of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Spotlight On Haitian Americans In South Florida ~ Edna LaRoche

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

On May 18th, when the people of Haiti celebrate Haitian Flag Day, Edna LaRoche will more than happy to fly the Caribbean country's red, white and blue

banner.

LaRoche was born in New York to Haitian parents. For over 30 years, she has lived in South Florida which has a massive Haitian population and of which she is a stalwart.

Currently the executive assistant to Wayne Messam, mayor of the city of Miramar, LaRoche has an unyielding love for her parents' homeland which has been beset by decades of internal conflict.

"I live and breathe Haitian culture, that's how important it is to me. I was actually born in Brooklyn, New York, the only child of Olivena LaRoche, my wonderful mother who hailed from Lavalee-de-Jacmel (in southeast Haiti). She was the first of her family to come to the United States but not the last," LaRoche disclosed. "My mom was able to help numerous family members come to the states, which helped to create the village that raised me. They taught me everything about Haitian Culture including Haitian food, Haitian music, creole and Haitian pride."

According to the 2018 US Census, over 1.3 million Haitians or people of Haitian descent live in the United States. Over half of that number are in South Florida - one of the main points is the Little Haiti community in downtown Miami.

LaRoche is aware of the stigmas that have dogged her



Proud Haitian American, Edna LaRoche

people for years, including their reputed obsession with voodoo, widespread poverty and migration by sea to other Caribbean countries and the US. She was so disturbed by the stereotypes, she created The New Haitian Generation, a television program that aired for nearly

eight years on BECON-TV, a station owned and operated by the School Board of Broward County.

"The concept for the show was created as a result of the multiple times I heard Haitians

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Final Expense Insurance

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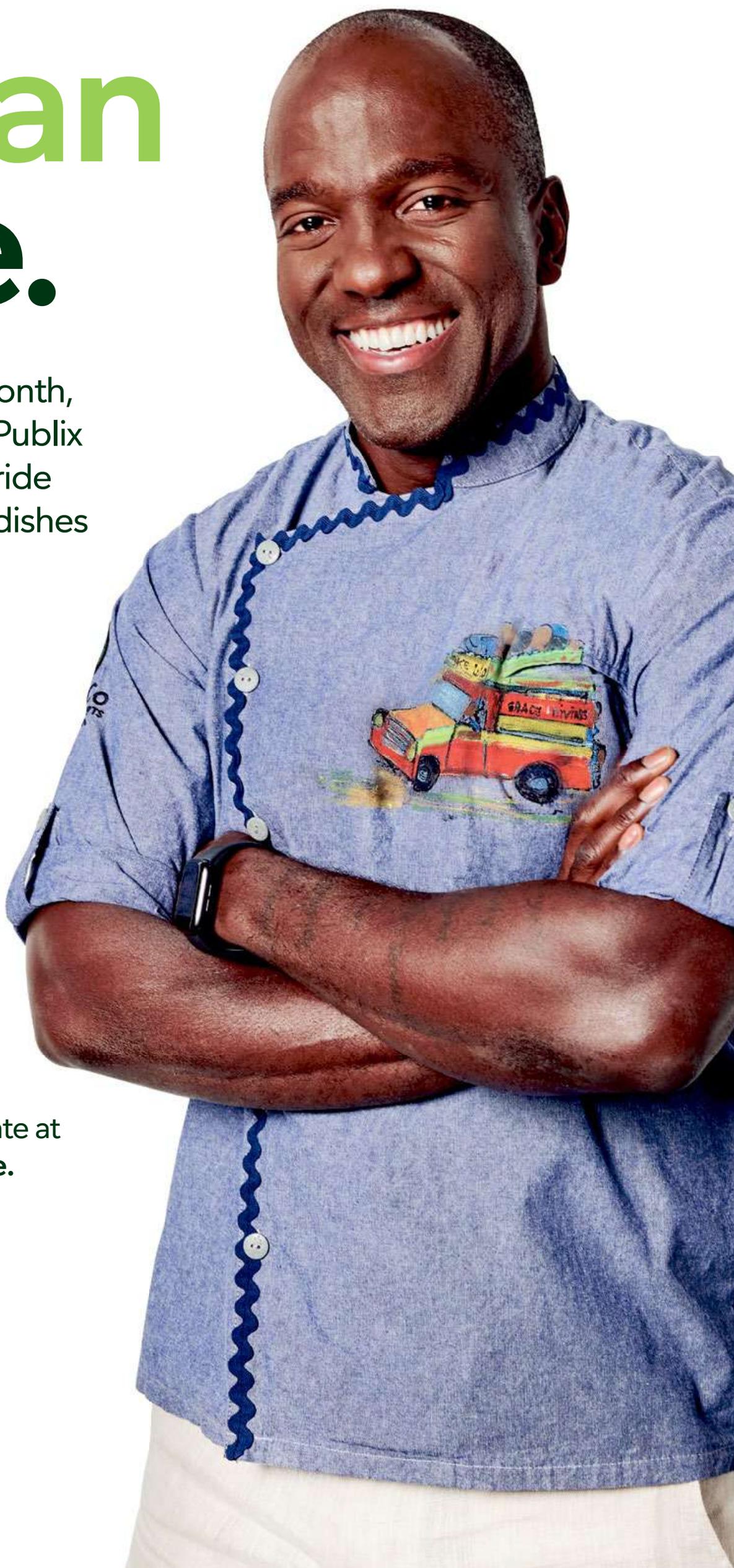
Haitian pride.

This Haitian Heritage Month, Chef Jouvens Jean and Publix associates share their pride and favorite traditional dishes as we celebrate Haiti.

“My favorite Haitian ingredient is the love of the people while they’re cooking. In a Haitian kitchen, the people are more important than any herbs and spices.”

—Chef Jouvens Jean

Find more reason to celebrate at publix.com/haitianheritage.



HAITIAN HERITAGE



Spotlight On Haitian Americans ~ Frankie Telfort

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

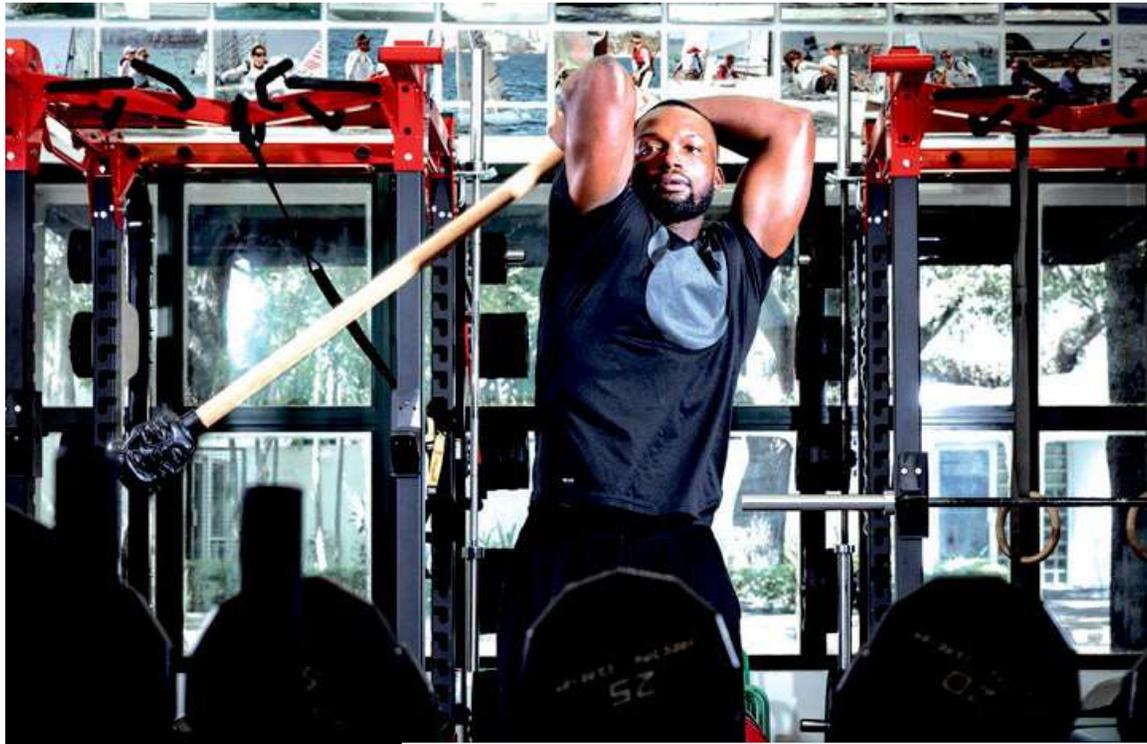
After an outstanding career as an outside linebacker at Miami's Gulliver Prep, Frankie Telfort was one of the most sought football prospects in the United States.

The 5-foot, 11-inch player eventually chose the University of Southern California to continue his sports career and education. But early into his freshman year, he was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a rare condition that is the leading cause of heart related deaths among people under 30.

Naturally disappointed, Telfort, a Haitian American, pursued a degree in Kinesiology. After graduation, he did a stint in coaching with the Seattle Seahawks before returning to his native Miami where at age 23, he began a successful career as a personal trainer by opening Old Bull Athletics, a multi-faceted gym that caters to clients into high-performance fitness.

There he has helped clients increase range of motion in joints via principles established from the Functional Movement Screen (FMS) and his studies at USC. Telfort also completed mentorships at the Institute of Motion with Michol Dalcourt, the creator of ViPR, and with the NFL Seattle Seahawks under Coach Carroll. He attended the PlanStrong Seminar with Pavel Tsatsouline, and earned his certification in Precision Nutrition in order to further help his clients reach their fitness and wellness goals.

As a dedicated and experienced athlete, he has received a host of awards for



Haitian American personal trainer Frankie Telfort

his performance and leadership abilities and continues to assist young student-athletes as the Defensive Coordinator for Gulliver Preparatory High school where he serves as a mentor and helps prepare student-athletes for a successful career in collegiate athletics.

He is a certified personal trainer specializing in TRX, kettle bells, VIPR, FMS as well as pre/post-natal training. His ample experience as both a Personal Trainer and a top-level athlete gives him a unique perspective while working with his clients and their individual goals and known for referring to his style of training as the "Old



Frankie Telfort in action with a client.

Bull Approach."

Telfort credits much of his perseverance to his father, Frank senior, who came to the United States from Port De Paix, Haiti

said Telfort. "He achieved the American Dream by leaving there at 16 years-old, becoming a citizen and having a family and business here. I know my father's teachings are rooted in a foundation of having less and seeing how blessed we are in this country to have the opportunities presented to us."

The older Telfort and his brother, a general contractor, started an electrical company shortly after Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida in 1992. Their biggest project to date was lighting the FTX Arena in Miami.

Telfort's maternal roots are in Mississippi. His mother, the youngest of 13 children, was born in Miami which has the largest Haitian community in the United States.

That presence, and his father's love for his homeland, made Telfort develop an early appreciation for the culture of the French-speaking country.

Frankie Telfort has never been to Haiti but hopes to make a difference whenever he does.

"I hope that one day I can visit Haiti with the knowledge and understanding of health and wellness to make an impact. Although my father speaks of it often, I have not been to Haiti in my 30 years on this Earth. In the near future I'd love to go back and help with health care and people in need of physical therapy," he said.



Spotlight On Haitian Americans In South Florida ~ Beatrice Louissaint

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Transportation contracts. In fact, the recently passed bi-partisan \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will not only rebuild the nation's ailing infrastructure, but it will also create millions of jobs and invest in communities.

Louissaint is excited about the business opportunities opening up for minority owned businesses who are prepared.

"Billions and billions of dollars will be coming to the state of Florida. And it's an opportunity for minority businesses to do business in that area. We'll need architects, contractors, road striping, bridgework, dump trucks, broadband, parking, janitorial just to name a few," she explained.

Trained and certified

companies will have opportunities to tap into these infrastructure projects. Importantly, businesses are certified on ownership, not size, so qualified companies of any size will have access. With more than 60 percent of the minority owned companies Louissaint works with generating revenues of \$1 million.

"Our certification is specifically for Hispanic, Asian, African American, and Native American owned companies. We don't certify based on size, we certify based on ownership and management. We actually have one of the largest minority-owned companies in the country that's certified with us, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, owned by African American Troy Taylor," Louissaint confirmed.

The Council president also pointed out that another client,

Florida-based EasyPeasie, owned and operated by two black women, was recently featured in Black Enterprise for their innovative products and growth trajectory. The point is, success is attainable, even in a depressed economy. So, what's the secret?

"Take advantage of any resources that are free," she said. "Secondly, really work the plan. Take time out to really think about the steps to success and have a roadmap. The roadmap can change, but at least have one. Identify mentors. It can be one great meeting with someone that's really doing something well. And make sure your legal, accounting, those kinds of things are in place because you want to build a strong foundation."



Spotlight On Haitian Americans In South Florida ~ Edna LaRoche

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

referred to as boat people, which didn't sit well with me. Why did it matter how you came here? What matters is what you've done with your life since you arrived and, in the Haitian community, it is a lot," said LaRoche. "The show was done in English because Haitians know of our accomplishments; I wanted to share that information with other nationalities as well."

Haiti has endured a series of tragic events, the latest taking place in 2021. President Jovenel Moise was assassinated at his official residence in the capital Port-au-Prince in July; one month later, the country was devastated by a 7.2 earthquake which killed over 2,000 people.

Prior to joining Messam's staff, LaRoche worked at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, and as marketing manager for

Miramar Cultural Center and is the CEO of Oohlala Banana, an artisan banana bread baking company based in Broward County. She is married to Haiti-born US citizen Joseph Labrousse, and they have one son, Joshua.

A "political junkie," LaRoche says she would like to see Haitian Americans having more impact in South Florida.

"The (Haitian community) has grown in numbers, not as much in influence," she said. "I love the fact that many qualified Haitian Americans have been elected to office, there weren't many when I moved to Florida from New York. It began in Miami-Dade and has finally also begun to happen in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Representation matters, it's a good thing."



Travel Requirements Have Eased For These Caribbean Destinations

It's getting easier again to travel to the Caribbean. A number of countries have now eased their COVID-19 travel mandates and are opening up to travelers again. Here's where it stands:

JAMAICA

Travelers to Jamaica will no longer have to present a COVID-19 test to board a flight. All persons travelling to Jamaica, however, will need to fill out the Immigration/ Customs C5 form by submitting the form online using the website <https://enterjamaica.com>. They may also fill out the paper card that is issued by the airline while in flight. There is now no mask mandate on island.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

If travelling to Antigua & Barbuda, arriving full-vaccinated passengers do not have to present a PCR/Rapid Antigen Test negative result to be permitted entry. This includes transiting passengers. However, fully vaccinated passengers may be required to submit to an RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival at their own expense.

Meanwhile, partially/unvaccinated passengers with no COVID 19 symptoms are permitted entry provided they: present a negative certified PCR result taken no more than three days or a Rapid Antigen Test taken no more than 24 hours prior to arrival.

They must also submit to an RT-PCR test on arrival at their own expense and quarantine for ten -14 days. If COVID-19 symptoms appear during the period of quarantine, the person must be placed in isolation and will be tested for COVID-19.

THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas still requires a COVID-19 test to be presented that is taken 72-hours before arrival and showing a negative result. You also must fill out a travel form.

SAINT LUCIA

There is now no requirement for pre-travel test or quarantine for fully vaccinated travelers to Saint Lucia. Fully vaccinated travelers must provide a valid vaccination record as requested on check in, for boarding and on entry to Saint Lucia. Fully vaccinated means two weeks has passed since the second dose of a two-dose vaccine, or since a single-dose vaccine. Vaccine card must be presented on entry to Saint Lucia.

Unvaccinated travelers aged 5 years and older must have a valid negative Standard COVID-19 PCR test done within 5 days prior to arrival

All travelers must submit a health screening form. The Health Screening Form should be downloaded and printed, and must be completed before disembarkation in Saint Lucia for ease of processing on arrival

CURACAO

No COVID testing is required for travel to Curacao. However, passengers must complete the digital immigration card or Passenger Locator Card (PLC) online, 48-hours before departure or carry a printed or digital document of proof with you.

TURKS AND CAICOS

Effective May 1, 2022, a negative COVID-19 test, and insurance are no longer be required for travel to the Turks and Caicos Islands if you are fully vaccinated. Travel authorization via the TCI Assured portal will also no longer be required and no masks are required on island.

GRENADA

Grenada has lifted its COVID-19 test requirements as well as health declaration form requirements. No vaccine is also required to travel to the Spice Isle.

BARBADOS

All travelers to Barbados must

still travel with an accepted valid negative COVID-19 PCR Test or Rapid Antigen Test result done within 1 day prior to arrival. You can also fly there with a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result done within 3 days prior to arrival.

Travelers who are unable to complete the online travel ED form can complete their travel to Barbados and use the Immigration kiosks on arrival in Barbados.

Accepted tests include tests

which were taken at an accredited or recognized laboratory by a healthcare provider via any of the following: nasopharyngeal sample, oropharyngeal sample, nasal sample, anterior nares sample or mid-turbinate sample.

LAMP tests, self-administered tests or home kits and tests using saliva samples will NOT be accepted. The laboratory performing the test must be an accredited, certified or recognized

facility

RETURNING TO THE U.S.

However, United States citizens are still required to show a negative COVID-19 viral test result taken no more than 1 day before travel or provide documentation of having recovered from COVID-19, before they board their flight.



★ ★ ★ THE STATE OF [REDACTED] CANNABIS IN AMERICA

★ ★ ★ [REDACTED] A CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

As the Director of Social Equity and Inclusion at the U.S. Cannabis Council, Tahir Johnson is working on initiatives that benefit minority communities impacted by the criminalization of cannabis.

Watch the Conversations on Cannabis virtual forum to hear Tahir Johnson, the Director of Social Equity and Inclusion at the U.S. Cannabis Council, talk about what's being done to advance social equity and racial justice in the nation's multi-billion dollar legal cannabis industry.

Watch now to join the conversation.



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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:

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SUMMER CAMP



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Eight-Year-Old Jamaican American Publishes “Jamaican Like Me”

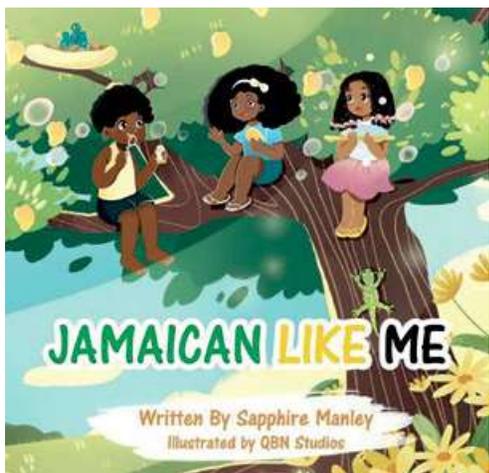
An 8-year-old Jamaican girl has authored a book to share the story of her visits to Jamaica and the time she spent reconnecting with grandparents, cousins, and the culture of the land of her ancestors.

Sapphire Manley’s “Jamaican Like Me,” was published in January of 2022, but Sapphire actually wrote the original manuscript at the age of six after visiting her maternal grandparents in Jamaica during the summer of 2019.

“Jamaican Like Me” is set in Saint Andrew, Kingston, and Port Royal in Jamaica. It follows a girl as she navigates being a citizen of the United States with a yearning to connect to the culture and traditions of her Jamaican parent.

It describes some of the author’s summer experiences with her cousins and friends on the island, including games they played, moments of fun and joy, and even some moments that frightened her. The story illustrates the bliss of being a child in Jamaica and the beauty of being bicultural.

When Sapphire told her mother, Janique Daley, in 2019 that she wanted to make an “official” children’s book, Daley did not take her seriously. For about a year, though, Sapphire continued to ask if her story could become a book.



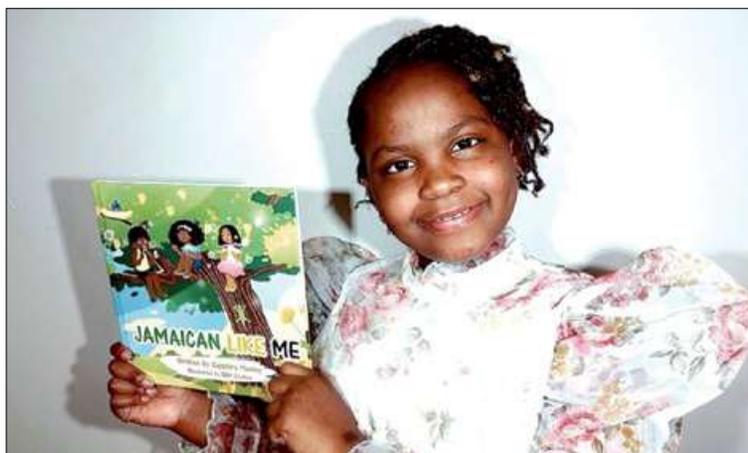
“Jamaican Like Me” by Sapphire Manley

issues.

Sapphire was born in Jamaica, raised mostly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and now lives in Glenside, Pennsylvania, with her mother, her step-father Daniel Pannella, her brother, and her newborn sister.

The entire family plans a three-week visit to Jamaica this summer. Daley plans to have her children christened there, and there will be an official book launch for “Jamaican Like Me” in Kingston.

Daley says that Sapphire wants to be a pediatrician when



Author Sapphire Manley

Because she wanted Sapphire’s story to be free of any influence from her, Daley hired QBN studios to help Sapphire to develop her story. Janique was born and raised in Jamaica. She moved to the United States in 2014 and currently is a nurse who works with geriatric patients experiencing mental health

she grows up, but she also has plans to write two more children’s books in the near future. The book is now on Barnes and Nobles, Amazon and in Target, for \$20.48.

- *Rewritten from Jamaicans.com*



Unique Ways To Celebrate Memorial Day And Beyond

Memorial Day will soon be here, and the holidays often revolve around being together. But whether your family and friends are near or far, there are plenty of fun and unique ways to celebrate this holidays in-person or virtually.

Host A Memorial Day Celebration Of Life

While Memorial Day weekend is often the unofficial start to summer filled with camping trips, beach parties and barbecues, it’s important to remember that we commemorate this day to honor the legacy of those who have served and lost their lives in the U.S. Military.

You can embrace the bond with your family by having a traditional backyard party or picnic in remembrance of those close to you who have served. Honor them by serving their favorite foods, playing their favorite games, or even writing your favorite memories down on a piece of paper and sharing them with the group.

Honor Juneteenth And Caribbean American Heritage Month

Juneteenth takes place on June 19th, and commemorates the emancipation of thousands of slaves who were not aware of their freedom until that date in 1865. On this date, Union General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. And in 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday in the United States.

Caribbean American Heritage Month, (CAHM), is all of June and is a celebration of the historical contributions of Caribbean immigrants to the US since slavery to present day.

Many honor Juneteenth with educational and family gatherings, supporting Black-owned businesses, and by visiting museums and exhibits dedicated to Black culture.

You can also send a personalized message of love and inspiration. And who better to deliver your message than Grammy Award-winning artist Alicia Keys? Her completely customizable SmashUp video greeting is specifically designed to celebrate the Juneteenth holiday.

Celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month by learning about the historical contributions of many Caribbean nationals to the US and sharing the information on social media.

Create A Custom Dad-Approved Experience This Father’s Day

What better way to show your appreciation for the father figure in your life than by creating a day all about him? Think about his favorite hobbies and design an itinerary sure to receive the Dad seal of approval. Whether it’s a fishing trip, creating your own backyard mini-golf course, or going on a brewery tour in search of the best local IPA, it’s sure to be a Father’s Day he’ll remember.

If you can’t be with Dad, sending a personalized video or ecard is a great way to show you care. These greetings are made just for him, and you can even add a gift card to one of his favorite stores.

Get Crafty For Fourth Of July

Fourth of July is the peak of summer and commemorates the Continental Congress formally accepting the Declaration of Independence of the United States in 1776. Often enjoyed with food, fireworks, and parades, it’s a bash that’s anticipated all summer long.

Get into the patriotic mood by creating some original décor or USA-themed foods for your cookout or fireworks watch party. Try your hand at designing items like patriotic napkin rings, American Flag-inspired desserts, painting outdoor items such as flowerpots red, white, and blue, or even making your own sparklers and lanterns to hand out to guests when they arrive. Then, after guests have settled into the festivities, add an extra layer of fun by using filter-like Selfie SmashUps to turn yourself and guests into Uncle Sam.

Each summer holiday is an opportunity to bring people together to make new memories. By thinking outside the box, you can truly make a splash this summer.

- *Rewritten from StatePoint*



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Shelly-Ann Has Eyes Set On Breaking 100-M Record

Jamaican Olympian, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, believes she can break the world 100 meters record this season as she prepares for her World title defense.

At age 35, Fraser-Pryce is in the twilight of her career but has shown little sign of decline, copping silver in Tokyo last year behind fellow Jamaican Elaine Thompson-Herah, and already showing good form with 22.79 seconds run in the Velocity Fest recently.

And while no woman has dipped below 10.50 in 34 years, Fraser-Pryce said she was upbeat about her chances of doing so.

“After having that season last year, it has definitely opened

a new door for me in terms of the dreams and the goals that I am chasing for this season,” the Gleaner quoted her as saying. “I am definitely looking forward to running 10.5 and possibly 10.4 so that is the aim. I think I am on my way to doing that, I just have to continue to trust that God will give me the strength and trust in the coach and just continue to put in the work.”

Fraser-Pryce was one of several international athletes making an appearance recently at the National Stadium here, as she finished second in the 200 meters. She dominated the race from the outset but visibly eased up in the stretch, allowing Bahamian



Jamaican Olympian Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. (CMC image)

Anthonique Strachan to come through for the win in 22.55.

Fraser-Pryce said she was pleased with the outing and believes it set the right tone for

the remainder of the season. “Once you are training and you are doing well, you set those kinds of goals for yourself because it is something that I am attempting,” she explained. “And last year, I opened with 23 seconds, and I went on to run [21.79] so [with] a later start to the season, I [ran] 22.79 so I am feeling good.”

Fraser-Pryce’s stellar career has seen win two Olympic 100m titles and four World 100m

crowns, the last of which came three years ago in Doha. She will defend her World title in Eugene, Oregon in the July 15-24 meet and said managing her workload will be critical to her success.

“As you know, I am looking forward to going to Paris (in 2024), and so I want to make sure that I am very cautious in the number of races that I run and, of course, the aim is to defend the title in Oregon,” she said.

Fraser-Pryce is the third fastest woman in the world with a personal best 10.60 in the 100 metres.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Jamaican High School Athletes Shine On Return To Penn Relays

Jamaica’s athletes made their presence felt with an exclamation point over the weekend of April 28-30th, as the Caribbean country returned to the Penn Relays, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

Edwin Allen High and Hydell High broke the 4x100-m and 4x400-m high school relays competition at the 126th staging of the Relays at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Edwin Allen won two relays, adding the 4x800-m, and just missed their first sweep after they were second in the 4x400-m. It was the fourth staging in a row during which Jamaican schools had swept the high school girls relays.

The Michael Dyke-coached Edwin Allen team ran 43.18 seconds to break the 4x100m record, while Hydell clocked 3:32.77 minutes in the mile relay about an hour later.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone, Jamaica College won the high school boys Championships of Americas 4x800-m to complete Jamaica’s sweep of the relays on Saturday’s

final day of the 126th Penn Relays Carnival at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

JC led from the start to win in 7:28.38 seconds, the third best time ever.

Camperdown High won the 4x100-m and Kingston College took the 4x400-m to match the sweep by the girls.

The team of Omarion Davis, Handal Roban, Kemarrio Bygrave and J’Voughnn Blake was unchallenged as they beat Ridge High of New Jersey - 7:41.59 seconds and West Springfield of Virginia - 7:45.14 seconds. It was their second win in the 4x800m and first since 1999 and comes after a second place in the 4x100m and sixth in the 4x400m.

Meanwhile, despite competing with an injured ankle, Kingston College’s (KC) Jaydon Hibbert still managed to outclass his rivals to win the Championship of America triple jump event at the 2022 Penn Relays at the Franklin Field Stadium.

Hibbert, had a best of 15.94 metres to win the event. Ryan



Edwin Allen High 4x100m relay team celebrates after smashing the record on the second and penultimate day of the 26th staging of the Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA on Friday, April 29, 2022. (PHOTO: Anthony Foster/Loop Jamaica).

John from Valley Stream North High School in New York was second with a mark of 15.05m while Brandon Hutchinson of St Augustine’s College, Bahamas finished third with 14.39m.

And St Elizabeth Technical’s Dejene Raymond leapt to a new personal best mark to mine gold in the Championship of America high jump event at the Penn Relays.

Raymond, who finished second in the event at the ISSA/GraceKennedy Boys’ and Girls’

Athletics Championships, cleared the bar at 2.05 metres to erase his previous best of 2.00m. Kingston College’s Aaron Lawrence, who has jumped 2.13m this season, was third with a mark of 1.99m.

SOMBER MOMENT

There was one somber note, however, as Holmwood Technical’s Samantha Pryce fell and broke her leg in the 4x800m relays.

Minister of Culture, Gender,

Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange, said Pryce, was taken to the Penn Medical Centre and had to have surgery.

The athletes are all registered on the ministry’s Athletes’ Insurance Programme; and the minister said she is making arrangements to ensure that Pryce gets the best care.

Pryce won the Under-20 girls’ 3000 metres while competing for Jamaica at the recent Carifta Games in Kingston.

TEAM JAMAICA BICKLE

For another year, Team Jamaica Bickle, founded by Jamaican immigrant, Irwine Clare, Sr. O.D., and an army of volunteers, were back at the Relays, dishing up ‘bickle’ with love to Caribbean athletes and providing services such as massages to athletes, transportation and accommodation thanks to donations secured earlier this year. TJB was also in the Carnival Village this year for the first time, flying the flag of Jamaica high as the prime minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, also made a foray to the prestigious relays this year.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Jamaican Basketballer Enters NBA Draft

A Jamaican-born, Illinois University junior basketballer, has entered the NBA draft for 2022.

Kofi Cockburn, who was born in Kingston, told ESPN, that he was proud of his college accomplishments, but is ready for a new challenge and the chance to prove he can attain new heights in his game.

Cockburn is a first-team All-American and the only college basketball player to attain an average over 20 points and 10 rebounds during the past season. During his time at Illinois, he led the school to a record of 23 to 10 and sharing a Big Ten championship with Wisconsin, giving Illinois a regular-season

title for the first time since 2005.

Cockburn acknowledged the difficulties of playing basketball during the COVID-19 pandemic and becoming All-American in two consecutive years, but he noted that Illinois had more victories in the past three years of any Big Ten team.

Cockburn has previously entered the NBA draft in 2020 and 2021 and under league rules is not allowed to withdraw his name for a third time, which makes him ineligible to play basketball at the college level again. He said he is totally committed to his decision and is signing with Tod Ramasar as his agent.



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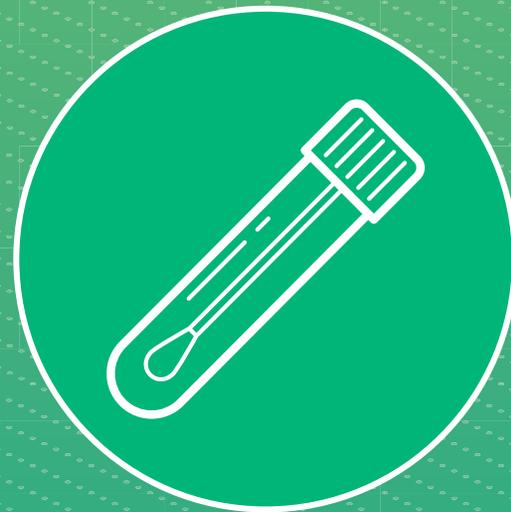
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